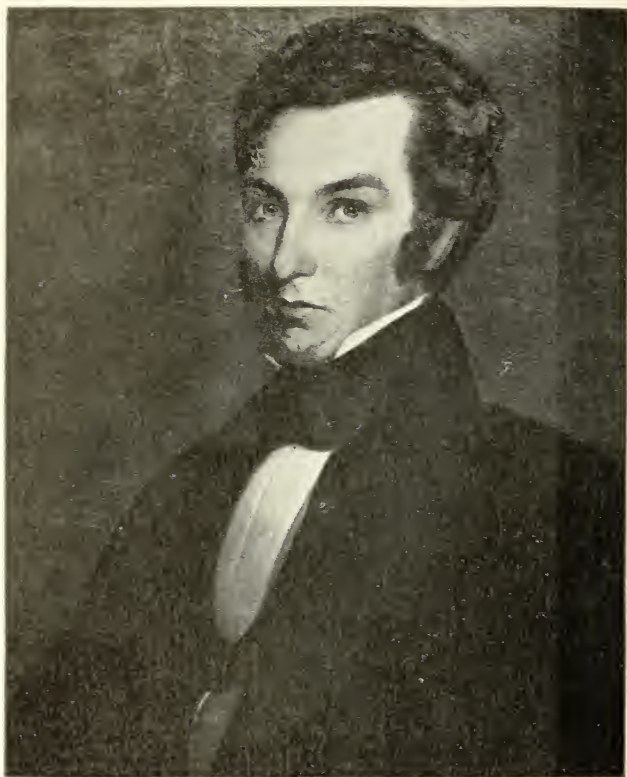




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REV. DAVID PEABODY 1805-1839.

From the portrait in possession of Charles J. Peabody

THE
HISTORICAL
COLLECTIONS
OF THE
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XX

1915

TOPSFIELD, MASS.

Published by the Society.

1915

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW

Editor

THE PERKINS PRESS

Topsfield

MASS.

CONTENTS.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR	
ENDING DEC. 31, 1914	v
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR THE YEAR	
ENDING DEC. 31, 1914	viii
BUILDING FUND	ix
RESTORATION OF CAPEN HOUSE	x
NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD, COPIED BY	
GEORGE FRANCIS DOW (<i>Continued</i>)	i
EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF REV. WILLIAM BENTLEY	
RELATIVE TO TOPSFIELD (1787-1818)	49
REV. DAVID PEABODY (1805-1839), BIOGRAPHICAL	
SKETCHES AND CORRESPONDENCE (<i>Portrait</i>)	66
BUILDING THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HOUSE	
IN 1842	86
JAMES LESSLIE OF TOPSFIELD, AND SOME OF HIS	
DESCENDANTS, BY M. V. B. PERLEY (<i>Illustrated</i>)	89
TOPSFIELD VITAL STATISTICS, 1914	105
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, 1914	108
BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED, 1914	108
INDEX TO TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS,	
VOLUMES XI-XX	109

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE SECRETARY OF THE
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1914.

The occupancy of the Parson Capen House by the Society, the building of a commodious wood and storage shed in the rear of the house, and the selection of a custodian have been the chief events in the life of the Society during the past year. The "house warming" which took place Jan. 16, 1914, was a great success. About 130 persons enjoyed the old fashioned supper which was served in the 17th century manner. Members from Danvers, Salem and Boston were present and several from as far away as Connecticut. President Bolten and Secretary Appleton of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities were also present and at the annual meeting held after the supper, they united in praising the architectural features of the new home of the Society and expressing satisfaction at the picturesque and gastronomic features of the old-time supper. The low studded rooms with their heavy timbers over which flickered the firelight and the gleam from the candles in sconces around the walls gave a romantic touch to the gathering and aroused a desire that all present might have been clothed in the dress of the ancient time—the time of Parson Capen.

From time to time during the past year evidence has accumulated showing that the claims made in the last annual report that our house possesses many unique features, are well founded. A writer upon architectural subjects, living near New York city, has made careful measured drawings of the house which are to be used to illustrate an article on the building. Meetings have been held here by the Bay State Historical League, the Lynn Historical Society and a section

of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and in this connection it is suggested that an effort might be made to bring the house and its facilities for a place of meeting to the attention of Historical and Patriotic Societies, Women's Clubs, etc. that might vary their programs by meeting here, thereby adding something to our treasury and also bringing people to view the natural attractions of our town. The house also was utilized as a place of meeting by ladies interested in furnishing clothing and supplies to war sufferers in Belgium and France.

Your directors have been extremely fortunate in securing Mr. Henry B. Sheahan, an instructor at Harvard University, to occupy the second floor of the Capen House and serve as its custodian. The present situation seems to be nearly ideal. Mr. Sheahan has rendered his occupancy more comfortable by making at his own expense various desirable improvements. The water supply from the old well having proved insufficient your directors propose driving a new well and connecting the same with the house as soon as weather conditions permit.

In the wood shed recently erected, space has been reserved for the storage of objects belonging to the Society. But we must not lose sight of the desirability—yes, necessity, for a fire-proof addition to the rear of our House in which to preserve and build up a museum illustrating the growth and cultivation of Topsfield and its citizens and for this purpose we should economize our expenditures and invite donations. All over this broad land are scattered buildings having a public utility and which have been erected in memory of the name and fame of former citizens. No more suitable and practical or more lasting memorial can be devised; and for less than two thousand dollars a fire proof structure could be erected and placed in our custody, forever having linked with it the name of some Topsfield family or individual of Topsfield birth.

Miss Clara A. Avery of Detroit, Michigan, has given ten dollars towards the development of an old-time flower garden and there is a probability that further donations for this purpose may follow.

No meeting of the Society was held in March because of a severe storm but in May a meeting was held in the Methodist

Church at which Mr. Leone P. Welch read a paper on "The Ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Topsfield," which was illustrated by radioptican showing portraits of many of the ministers and early views of meeting house.

At the November meeting, which was held in the Capen House, the Secretary spoke informally on "Parson Capen and ye house in which he dwelt."

The present membership is 267, thirty-eight new members having been elected during the past year; two resigned and four members died: Edwin K. Foster, Miss Esther M. Gould, Alphonso T. Merrill and Mrs. Mary L. Perkins. Volume 18 of the Historical Collections has been completed and distributed and volume 19 is nearly ready to send to the binder.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1914

RECEIPTS

1914		
Jan. 12.	Balance cash on hand,	\$106 13
Dec. 31.	Received from annual dues,	\$131 50
"	" " Hist. Colls. sold,	4 50
"	" " binding,	37 50
		<u>173 50</u>
		<u>\$279 63</u>

PAYMENTS

Dec. 31.	Binding, Vol. 17,	\$33 81	
"	Printing, Vol. 18,	109 68	
"	Binding, Vol. 18,	29 83	
"	Printing, Vol. 19. on account,	50 00	
"	Engraving, Vol. 19,	12 75	
"	J. L. Ward, interest on loan,	4 50	
"	Pasteboard,	4 00	
"	Postage and misc. printing,	9 66	\$254 23
		<u></u>	
	Balance		25 40
			<u>\$279 63</u>
Jan. 1, 1915,	Balance cash on hand,	\$25 40	

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Treasurer.

Approved,

ALBERT M. DODGE,
WILLIAM C. LONG,
Auditors.

BUILDING FUND

RECEIPTS

1914

Feb. 24.	Loan from James L. Ward,	\$900 00	
Mar. 30.	Loan from James L. Ward,	1400 00	
Apr. 24.	Dividend from U. S. Mach. Co.	18 50	
July 6.	“ “	18 50	
Oct. 5.	“ “	18 50	
Dec. 1.	Rent 1 month,	10 00	
Dec. 11.	Loan from James L. Ward,	340 00	\$2705 50

1914

Feb. 24.	Transferred to Restoration Acct.	\$900 00	
Mar. 30.	Paid loan, Naumkeag Trust Co.	500 00	
“	Paid loan, James L. Ward,	900 00	
Sept. 30.	Interest on Ward note (\$1400. at 5 %)	35 00	
Dec. 11.	J. H. Welch, building wood shed, etc.	297 40	
“	F. W. Ward, insurance,	23 34	
“	Transferred to Restoration acct.	42 14	\$2697 88
	Balance cash on hand		<u>\$7 62</u>

1915

Jan. 1.	On hand in Building Fund, 37 shares U. S. Mach. Co. stock, value 54,	\$1998 00	
	Held as collateral for outstanding loans, viz		
	James L. Ward note,	\$1400 00	
	James L. Ward note,	340 00	1740 00
	Present value of Fund		<u>\$258 00</u>

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Treasurer.

Approved,

ALBERT M. DODGE,

WILLIAM C. LONG,

Auditors.

CAPEN HOUSE RESTORATION AND
FURNISHING ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS

1913		
Sept. 9.	Donation from a "Friend",	\$1100 00
" 27.	Residue Cummings est. trans. from Building Fund,	88 00
Dec. 8.	Withdrew deposit at Salem Savings Bank,	128 59
1914		
Jan. 14.	Dividend U. S. Mach. Co.,	18 50
Feb. 24.	Int. on deposits Naumkeag Trust Co.,	1 42
"	Loan from Jas. L. Ward at 5 %,	900 00
"	Gift David Pingree,	100 00
"	Gift Arthur H. Wellman,	22 24
"	Gift Stephen W. Phillips,	15 00
Mar. 2.	Gift George L. Gould,	32 82
Apr. 2.	Gift Frank W. Ward,	12 51
Dec. 12.	Trans. from Building Fund,	42 14
		<hr/> \$2461 22

PAYMENTS

1913		
Sept.	M. W. Smerage, team and man, grading,	\$87 92
"	W. H. Herlihy, removing paint, whitewash, etc.	97 40
"	A. L. Hodgdon, digging cesspool, trench, and cleaning up,	41 56
"	A. L. Hodgdon and E. M. Dow, taking down plastering, etc,	7 82
Oct. 25.	Spence, Bell and Co. 21 leaded casement windows,	94 00
Nov. 4.	Kimball and Co., 21 casement sash,	26 25
" 29.	Morrison and Young, 21 win- dow frames and labor,	87 80
"	Morrison and Young, pine, wainscotting,	62 83
Nov. 29.	Chester Killam, express from Salem,	2 00

Nov. 29.	Elwood Noyes, pump,	7 00	
Dec. 8.	G. H. Williams, mason work,		
	chimney and fireplaces,	118 56	
"	Charles W. Andrews, painting,		
	paper-hanging, etc.,	59 00	
1914			
Jan. 17.	O. S. Greenwood, well, sink, and		
	pipng,	39 69	
"	E. B. Woodbury, lime, cement,		
	and tile pipe,	20 00	
Feb. 24.	H. R. Wildes, carpenter work		
	and lumber,	1099 76	
"	Kimball and Co. reproducing		
	furniture,	252 03	
"	N. E. Reed Co. reseating chairs,	6 00	
"	F. W. Dingle, ironwork,	67 83	
	George F. Dow, misc. payments,		
	acct. hardware, kitchen uten-		
	sels, window curtains, open-		
	ing supper, etc.	75 04	
Feb. 25.	E. B. Woodbury and Co. $\frac{1}{2}$ cord wood,	3 00	
"	Bixby and Co. wall-paper and		
	moulding,	22 10	
Feb. 26.	C. P. Poor and Co. paint, oil, etc.	32 26	
"	A. C. Titus and Co. 36 folding chairs	30 00	
"	" trucking same and furniture	8 00	
Apr. 6.	W. A. Webb, plastering, building		
	cesspool, etc.	88 73	
May 5.	M. B. Paige and Co. pottery		
	reproductions,	17 15	
"	Spence, Bell and Co. repairing		
	leaded glass,	4 77	
Aug. 18.	" "	2 62	\$2461 12
	Balance cash on hand		10
	Respectfully submitted,		

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Approved,

Treasurer.

WILLIAM C. LONG,

ALBERT M. DODGE,

Auditors.

NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD.

COPIED FROM SALEM NEWSPAPERS

BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

(Continued from Vol. XVIII, page 119.)

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION IN ESSEX SOUTH.

The Trustees of the Bible Society of Salem and vicinity, having completed the work of exploration and distribution, which was commenced in June, 1846, respectfully submit the following statement of results.

. . . In *Topsfield*, 205 families visited; destitute, 4; partly destitute, 6; sold 90, at cost \$30.51; given, 19, at cost \$5.70.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 7, 1848.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The hearing upon the petition of B. B. Towne and others for a new highway from near Wenham Causeway to the Burley farm road, so called, has been adjourned for view and further hearing to Monday, March 20, at the house of Benjamin Towne in Topsfield.

Salem Gazette. Feb. 15, 1848.

TOPSFIELD. On Sunday night, 26th, about 12 o'clock, an unoccupied dwelling house in Topsfield near the Boxford line, belonging to Asa Pingree, Esq., was discovered to be on fire, and an alarm was given in the neighborhood. Mr. Isaac Hale, who resides in the neighborhood, and his family, left their house for a short time to witness the conflagration, and during their absence a gold watch was stolen therefrom.

The watch was soon after offered for sale in Boston and recovered, and the affair is now in the hands of the police.

Salem Gazette, June 28, 1859.

[For the Newburyport Herald.]

TOPSFIELD, Oct. 15th, 1859.

To the Editors of the Herald—Gentlemen: At the solicitation of the Academicians of our town, I attended their Fair on Friday last, and the potency of the jollification made so deep an impression on my susceptible nature, that I was inspired to write in off hand verse the sayings and doings, in their simplicity, which you will please insert in your paper, excusing its length, which you know is my peculiarity.

C. H. HOLMES.

THE ACADEMIC FAIR.

While Wednesday last on business bent,
A youth gave me a sentiment,
Observing that I must prepare,
Some funny thing for Friday's Fair;
That in due course one would propose,
Something 'bout poetry and prose.
Then I could rise at this OUTCALL,
And say my say before them all,
Or whatever in my head would pop;
He knew I'd do the thing "tip top,"
Supposing from my "tip top" height,
I'd get off something very bright.
Thinks I, I'll go, 'twill make folk stare,
To see a real Polar bear—
A strapping fellow six feet eight,
Yes, I'll be there at any rate.
Talk about poetry and prose!
A broader theme no man e'er chose!
"Like a needle in a hay mow",
The thing's to find the point, I trow,
Yet with some small botheration,
I drew a kind of relation,
With now and then an incident,

To raise a laugh, which is my bent,
I got some how or other through,
So that I thought the thing would do.
But one thing caused me much distress,
And it was this—how I should dress.
My common dress each neighbor knows,
Resembles oft the scare of crows,
My cowhide boots and slouching hat,
Looking, save this, I scarce know what.
First from my closet I drew out,
And pulled and hauled my clothes about,
Selecting then from my whole “kit,”
Just what I thought would be most fit;
Placing my feet within my shoes
I shined them up as black as loes;
Then I put on my coal black coat
Without a wrinkle or a mote:
With a studded shirt, standing dickey—
Was’nt I a BRUMMEL, oh Crickey?
Looking much like a stuffed chicken,
Spit and skewer in him sticking.
Accoutred thus I forward strode,
Taking the middle of the road.
My EPIC now may be deferred
While on our school I say a word:
Our Academy is thrifty,
And oft numbers more than fifty;
I cannot well the number fix,
But once it reached e’en ninety-six:
Some terms than others it has more,
And yet than fifty seldom’s lower;
The Principal’s a business man,
And in all matters takes the van;
Sees to the morals of the lad,
Reproves and regulates the bad.
Him a preceptress too assists,
And several others he enlists.
Here one can study ancient lore,
Or just enough to keep a store;
Can learn to say the A. B. C.,

Or be propelled towards LL. D. ;
Learn music, which charms the savage,
Lulls Cerberus, moves the cabbage ;
Or any like accomplishment,
For which young scholars here are sent.
For many reasons I'd commend,
That children parents do here send.
First, Topsfield is a healthy place,
Well tested by our long lived race ;
Our hill slopes have a bracing air,
That paints our ladies' cheeks so fair ;
Our vales are free from chilly damps,
That pierce the frame with colds and cramps ;
And there's no miasmatic flood,
Where gangrene waters long have stood ;
And we've a mountain barrier,
Where the cold East comes just "so far,"
'Neath which is a wide extended plain
Teeming with crops of grass and grain ;
While our hill pastures grow the herd,
Which yields the cheese engendered curd ;
And we have many rides and walks
On hills and vales for pleasant talks :
And then we have a famous pond,
A miniature Loch Lomond,
Which is well stocked with perch and pout,
And pickerel and salmon trout ;
And here one, too, can take a sail,
If he'll in skiff, adventure, frail ;
And those who like it surely could,
Hunt birds and squirrels in the wood ;
Take any kind of exercise
To make one "healthy, wealthy, wise,"
And practice every simple fun,
That youth e'er practice 'neath the sun ;
And then there's not a fairer view,
In any land, or old or new,
Than's seen from our own "River-hill"
With scope of plain and copse and rill ;
And the meandering Agawam,

Threading its way through meads of balm.
Our little ville's spread at the feet,
The houses with verandas neat,
Its schoolhouse and its meeting spires,
Where live the sons as lived the sires,
With interspersions here and there,
Of cottages as quaint as rare,
And the true farm house, whose build
Shows the substantial with less gild,
While woods on woods lay far beyond
Our little fairy Lake Lomond.
And then our genial neighborhood
Has always been esteemed quite good ;
Go where we will we find some bad ;
And yet none better can be had ;
Those too who leave the place to roam,
Recall with joy their "Mountain Home."
A stranger here, by lineage
I hope to spend a green old age :
I like not well these far, far roams,
And this to me's the HOME OF HO(L)MES.
There goes through town a good railroad,
And scholars can leave their abode,
Bringing their own bread and butter.
And go back at night to supper.
The President of our road, Poole,
Who by the way is sure "no fool,"
Has run our road so well and wise,
The "Maine folks" wish to compromise ;
The handsomest, kindest man,
That ever yet a railroad ran ;
But if the scholars wish to board,
They'll find our larders here well stored ;
And if they'll come we all will try
To treat them with due courtesy.
Saying thus much I will go back,
And try to gain the FAIRWARD track.
Entering the Hall my bow I made
To youth, men, maidens of each grade ;
The hall was dressed with simple taste,

No useless show, no lavish waste,
But well arranged, verdant and neat,
And to my taste it seemed complete.
The dresses of the ladies, too,
Were plain, not gaudy, "good as new."
While not as once, the bosom screen
Was buttoned to the chin, I ween,
And save the fashioned widened hoops,
Little of furbelow and loops.
Soon they commenced to circle round,
"With pipe and harp and viol's sound."
Now with a slow, then quicker pace,
The miss enacting all with grace.
I saw the Doctor in the throng,
As if he did to youth belong,
And seemed just in his element,
With joke, and laugh, and compliment,
Prancing, limber as a kitten,
Young as when a boy first smitten;
And then the Doctor has a way,
Of suiting both the grave and gay,
A kind word for everybody—
News disconsolate and moody;
Ever the gentleman urbane;
May he with us long, long remain!
Yet we with this ourselves console,
That he'll ne'er leave us on the whole,
Since he's transmitted through each boy
His very self without alloy.
As I sat there a pretty girl,
With laughing eye and raven curl,
And quite a roguish look, and sly,
Solicited my company.
Said I, "Please excuse me!" "Excuse,
No sir, I'll not, so 'tis no use."
With that she trundled me right out,
Amid uproarious laugh and shout.
Thinks I, I'm in for't: now for sport;
And though I'm LONG I can be short,
And in some way accomodate

My length to my peculiar mate.
I complimented the beauty,
Talked concerning love and duty;
I scarcely knew of this or that,
Save that my heart went "pit a pat."
And now the player "louder blew,"
The partners quick and quicker flew,
And we went it, "round, round, round,"
With hop, skip, and jump right wound,
Leaving me for another mate,
I was much like the fishes bait;
Now one at my arm would nibble,
One would seize it with a giggle;
For this appeared to be the game,
Which is called—I've forgot the name.
The tune—and 'twas the queerest thing,
Sounded like this, when they did sing—
"Higglety, Pigglety, & Co.,
Oh do come and kiss me, do, do,"
And seemed to have but just two staves,
Much like the rise and fall of waves;
At times there was a marked clash, clash,
As when the opposing surges lash;
Yet throughout all this race and rush,
Was not an act to make one blush;
Nor was there yet one lad or miss,
Who hinted or e'en looked a kiss:
And e'en his reverence "of the staff."
Sometimes would join the "vacant laugh."
And now was heard the welcome call,
To take refreshment 'neath the hall.
So we all went adown the stairs,
And singly some, and some by pairs;
The misses by the tables near,
The gentles bringing up the rear;
The Parson who was present there,
Then graced the feast with debonnaire.
The scholars had prepared the Feast
From parts of ox and porker beast.
With cakes, tarts, pies, milk, coffee, tea,

And that the nicest, not Bohea.
The misses with each other vied,
Backwards and forwards as they hied
To urge on one some nice choice thing,
"And thus went round and round the ring."
" 'Tis very good, you'd better try
And take a piece of cake and pie;
At least you'll take a choice sweet heart,
Surely of mine you'll take a part."
Thus hither, thither they did fly
With graceful assiduity.
Well freighted now we sought the "Hall,"
To tell our "crack before them all."
The princess sought a Royal speech,
Which was well answered by the LEECH;
Then there came a Mister Herrick
Who gave us something smooth and slick,
And next the Preceptor's chum,
Who straight from Andover did come;
Then hosts of Academics came,
The whole to me unknown by name;
E'en the little "witch of Endor,"
Who for me performed the tender,
And who no doubt some youth will craze,
Since she a PROPHET dead did raise—
Was wholly by her name unknown,
For such a BEAR I here had grown.
Now as great bodies move not fast,
It seemed to come my turn at last;
So I a prosy speech begun,
And ended with poetic fun;
My patron saint did then invoke,
And then these final words I spoke;
"Thinking 'twould please each youthful miss,
I thought I'd speak about the kiss,
Surely 'twill please each gentleman,
And ladies need not use the fan,
For I will cause no one to blush,"
So here it goes—be silent—hush!
Then came conundrums, witty strokes,

Puns, and all kinds and sorts of jokes.
As all things have an end at last,
It being ten o'clock and past,
With many a kind wished good night
Of pleasant dreams and slumbers light,
Little and big we all cleared out,
"Merrily, ho," with a laugh and shout.
The Fair's whole detail pleased me much;
And of its phases, such and such,
There was all absence of pretence,
And no display of wondrous sense,
Save wondrous sense is always known
By true simplicity alone.
E'en their speeches were as simple
As the laughing beauty's dimple,
With not a big or learned word
Save but to show the thing absurd.
Nice arrangement there surely was,
And yet appeared no real cause;
There seemed to be some "hidden hand,"
That unseen prompted each demand,
Or resolution of the whole,
And guided with but just one soul.
There was no jostling to and fro,
But each one knew just what to do,
And all was social, cordial, kind,
Not overdone, natural, refined.
The music, too, was capital,
And everything complete—all—all.

TOPSFIELD.—RURAL LEVEE AND SOCIABLE.—Some score or less of the young ladies of our village, taking advantage of their undisputed privileges, of *leap year*, and accompanied by as many young gentlemen, for support and accomodation, in these slippery times, made a social call last Thursday evening, on a young gentleman of the medical profession, who has neglected *one* of the things needful, a little beyond the appointed time, and whose merit is only surpassed by his extreme modesty.

As the Dr. might not expect so many patients at one time, professional aid had been provided at hand. Since he had

been rather reserved as regards the acceptance of invitations to our social evening gatherings, the Ladies thought they would take this method to become better acquainted with him, professing that if they should ever need his professional services, he might have opportunity to learn something of their habits and dispositions, somewhat necessary for the safety of the patient and success of the Physician.

If the Doctor received no tender and lasting impressions on the occasion, he must truly be in fault, for such beauty and charms do not grow in every *bush* I can assure you; and the young gentlemen were not far in arrear, who performed their part in an active but chastened manner.

After spending the evening in various impromptu diversions, and after paying due respect to an inviting table, which had been furnished by the gentleman, the party separated, the ladies gallanting to their quarters the gentleman.

After the self invited guests had left, the Dr. found upon his table a very superb volume, entitled the COURT OF NAPOLEON, accompanied by a note expressing the interest which the young ladies had in the professional success of the Doctor, and requesting his acceptance of the volume.

Now if the splendid engravings in the volume, added to the sparkling flashes from the eyes of the loving models about him, do not touch a tender chord in the Dr's heart, we shall have to give him over as incorrigible. Who'll be QUEEN of the Dr's* COURT twelve months hence?

Salem Gazette, Jan. 27, 1860.

TOPSFIELD.—Joel Lake, Esq., who died in Topsfield, on the 1st of May, at the age of 56 years, has for twenty years occupied no small space in the public mind, connected with fruit and tree culture. His operations in this line have extended throughout the Commonwealth and into the neighboring States. Our agricultural shows will miss his contributions at their public tables, where he rarely failed of attracting the public attention, and obtaining the best premiums. His pomological conversation and free remarks were always listened to with interest and profit. He gave a great part of his time to the subject, and spared no pains to obtain the

*Justin Allen, M. D., who died in Topsfield, unmarried, in 1908.

rarest and most celebrated specimens of new fruits which were brought out, both in our own vicinity and from importations. But the greatest void will be made by his unexpected death, in his own family connections and among his neighbors, who were accustomed to look to him for counsel and direction. He leaves a bereaved and disconsolate widow to mourn his sudden departure, having buried an only son in his early life.

Salem Gazette, May 11, 1860.

ESSEX INSTITUTE.

The first Field Meeting, the present season, under the auspices of the Essex Institute, took place at Topsfield, on June 8, 1860, postponement from Wednesday, the day appointed, on account of the unfavorable condition of the weather. Those from Salem and vicinity took an early train and arrived after a short ride, at Topsfield, which is located nearly in the geographic centre of the county and contains some of the highest lands within its limits, and before the age of railroads was the great place for holding county conventions, &c; but the later modes of travelling have made great changes in the relative condition and importance of many of our inland towns and villages.

After leaving the cars, the party dispersed in various directions, as taste and inclination dictated. Some partook themselves to the ponds and brooks, in search of the fishes, reptiles, &c; there to be found;—some to the woods and meadows in quest of Flora's treasures, whilst others ranged the hills and enjoyed the beautiful scenery and extended views there presented. A few visited the Treadwell farm bequeathed to the Essex Agricultural Society, by the late Dr. John G. Treadwell of Salem,—to be used by them in such a manner as will best advance the science of agriculture. It is now under the care of Mr. Brown, who very politely took them over the grounds and pointed out the various experiments which he was making in respect to the importance of some of the best kinds of manures, and the different modes of their application. The Society has not had possession of this farm long enough to obtain satisfactory results from their experiments, but without doubt as

years roll on, the accumulation of important agricultural facts deduced from these successive experiments will contribute much to our knowledge on these important subjects. On this farm were noticed some fine specimens of the old Pasture Oak, one of which had been recently levelled to the ground by the woodman's axe,—the question was suggested whether our farmers do plant the oak and thus replace those old trees which are gradually passing away, and have contributed so much to the beauties and picturesque appearance of our fields and pastures, and at the same time of so much importance in ship building. We also noticed two very large old Locust trees, one of which measured, four feet from the ground, ten feet in circumference; seldom do these trees escape the ravages of the borers to attain to this size.

Soon after noon the various parties began to collect at Union Hall, in the basement of the Methodist church, which had been generously tendered to the Institute for this occasion,—here the temporary table was placed on which were deposited the contents of sundry baskets brought by the several members,—the bracing and invigorating air of these hills and the ramble of several hours induced an appetite which did ample justice to the repast. After spending an hour or two in social conversation and cordial greeting of friends from different parts of the county, the meeting was called to order by Vice President, Rev. John L. Russell, who presided on the occasion.

The Chair then offered some remarks upon the history and formation of the Institute and its present condition and objects—as is usual when a meeting is held in a place where the operations of the Institute are but little known. The objects of these field meetings were alluded to, and the manner of conducting the same. MR. JOHN M. IVES of Salem, being called upon, mentioned that he found some beautiful specimens of the painted cup, *Bartsia coccinea*, the locality in Topsfield was new to him. The chief beauty of this plant consists in its bracts and not in the corolla, as in most of our flowers. These bracts are four or five cleft, the segment oblong, obtuse and of a bright scarlet color at top. He also alluded to the fact that the first public meeting of the

Essex Co. Natural History Society took place at the old Hotel in this place in 1834, and that the first field meeting under the present organization also was held at the academy building some four years since.

DR. R. H. WHEATLAND gave the result of his researches this day. He mentioned having found four species of fishes, four of frogs, one of snakes, and three of turtles, and offered some remarks upon their habits, &c. He also exhibited a specimen of a blind fish; also a crab, (*Astacus fluviatiles*) recently brought from the Mammoth Cave, in Kentucky, by Mr. B. C. Putnam of Wenham.

The Chair then alluded to a specimen of the seventeen year Locust, from Virginia, handed in by Mr. Felt, and made some remarks upon its habits—which are said to do but little damage singly, though when they come, as they often do, in myriads, commit great destruction in vegetation. He also spoke a good word in favor of crows and robins, contending that they did more good than harm, although they would eat a little fruit, as cherries, strawberries, &c., and yet the good they accomplish in the destruction of grubs and worms more than counterbalances.

MR. SAMUEL TODD of Topsfield desired to call the attention of the association to some gravel pits in the neighborhood. This place, on which this village is situated, extends from one to one and a half miles in extent, and is a sandy formation; in the midst, or on its top, are found these gravelly knolls, probably drifted down from the north by the ice, as is now generally believed to be the case with the huge boulders in some parts of the country. He also thought the red gravel spoken of by Dr. Kane as covering the ice for miles, to be of this character. The Chair followed with a few general remarks upon the subject of drift, regretting the absence of our esteemed friend, Hon. B. F. Mudge, who has, since our last meeting, removed to the far west, and when with us considered Geology as his peculiar study.

MR. C. M. TRACY of Lynn gave some account of his botanical rambles, and spoke of the various plants that had been gleaned during the day, accompanying the same with many interesting and instructive remarks on the habits, the economy &c., of the different species enumerated.

The Committee on Field Meetings reported that the next meeting would take place at Groveland, on Wednesday, June 27th, if the weather should be favorable.

After passing a vote of thanks to the proprietors of the Methodist Church for their kindness in granting the free use of this commodious hall for the Institute this day,—also to Messrs. Phillips, Adams, Merriam, Holmes, Peabody, Leach, and others, for their polite attentions to the members and their friends, during this visit to Topsfield, and some general remarks from the Chair, who expressed great pleasure, in behalf of the association, in coming to Topsfield, and who was gratified in noticing so many of the citizens of the place participating in the doings of the Institute,—the meeting then adjourned.

On leaving the hall, we noticed in a wagon near the building, a beautiful specimen of the white headed eagle, belonging to Eleazer Lake of Topsfield, which was captured in December, 1858; also, a living specimen of a large white owl, belonging to Geo. Killam of East Boxford, which was captured in December last. This last specimen did not appear to be the common snow owl, but probably is an albino of some other species. Both specimens appeared to be in a healthy condition.

An interesting specimen of a smooth ball taken from the pouch of an ox was exhibited, and presented to the Cabinets of the Institute by Osgood Perley.

The occasion proved very pleasant to all who participated, and much gratification was expressed at the attentions that were shown to the visitors.

Salem Gazette, June 15, 1860.

DEATHS

In Topsfield, June 27, Mr. David B. Balch, 77 years. His death was very sudden. He was reading, in his chair, apparently well, and fell dead instantly.

Salem Gazette, July 3, 1860.

TOPSFIELD, JULY 16. On Thursday last, as Mr. J. Porter Gould was standing on top of a load of hay in his field at Topsfield, the horses suddenly started and threw him backwards on the ground, fracturing his spine in two places. He

lingered, in great agony, until about 6 o'clock this morning (Monday,) when he died. Never has there been more sadness resting on the countenances of our citizens, than that caused by this sad affair. Mr. Gould was in the full tide of an active business, about 44 years of age, and universally esteemed. He leaves a family of four children, the youngest about 3 weeks old.

Salem Gazette, July 17, 1860.

TOPSFIELD. The thunder storm of Wednesday was very severe in Topsfield. The Academy building was struck and much damaged; the lightning first striking the cupola, passing through the roof, the upper and lower stories, through all the floors to the ground. It is supposed that the lightning passed from the building to the railroad track, which is very near the Academy. Several of the windows and their frames were forced out, the plastering torn off, the stove and funnel on the lower floor thrown about, and much other damage done.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 14, 1860.

TOPSFIELD. Otis Mann will run omnibusses from Topsfield to the camp meeting at Hamilton, during the week.

Mr. Mann has also established a stage between B. P. Adam's store, Bull Brook, Lovelet's and Pine Swamp.

Wm. Waitt has established a daily express between Topsfield, Danvers, So. Danvers and Salem.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 17, 1860.

Topsfield Academy

THIS Academy will be opened this Fall as an Institution for Young Ladies, under the care of Mrs. S. J. CHADWICK.

Competent Assistants will be employed and thorough instruction will be given in all the various Classical and English branches,—with Music, Drawing and Painting.

The term will commence on the first Wednesday of October, (having been deferred from August, as previously advertised,) and continue ten weeks.

Tuition \$5.00. Languages and Ornamental Branches, extra. For further particulars, inquire of the Principal at Bradford, Mass.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 11, 1860.

A PLEASANT JAUNT.

A pleasant trip is that through Topsfield, Boxford, and Georgetown, three worthy places and two of them members of the same parent stock. Topsfield is in fact one of the prettiest places "out-of-doors," as the saying goes. It presents a real delightful look as viewed, on some pleasant spring, summer or autumnal day, from the summit of the hill over which the Newburyport Turnpike extends, and down which the visitor wends his way when approaching the village from Danvers. The Ipswich river winds through the town, and the green hills and cultivated slopes which line the valley bespeak the excellence of the soil. We always like to go to Topsfield, notwithstanding the quietness of its demeanor and anti-commercial reputation indicated by the mythical character of its Long Wharf, to which the jocular allusion is almost too old to be repeated. The peculiarities we have named, very likely constitute the chief attraction. Topsfield has its outskirts, though, in which respect it is not dissimilar to a place of greater pretension. These outskirts find their chief note in belonging to the same corporation, territorially speaking, though there are many fine farms along the "outer edges" of the place, of which the sojourner in the village would have but a very inadequate idea. Away off in the direction of Ipswich, there is a locality which bears the designation of "Firetown." We are not sure whether Ipswich or Topsfield is entitled to the honor of possessing this classic precinct. The good folks of Firetown are said to be an excellent kind of people, but why they adopt such a designation as that above given, we cannot for our life determine. It cannot be for their fiery disposition or temperament, because their reputation indicates an opposite condition of things; and conflagrations in that neighborhood could not, of necessity, extend over a wide area, and are probably not frequent. "Firetown" has a meeting-house, which reminds us, on the whole, that the section is peculiar to Ipswich and has nothing to do with the place of which we are speaking, though in such close proximity as to be somewhat identified with in the interests of local trade and traffic.

The village of Topsfield is in a beautiful hollow formed by the rich and lovely hills, the surfaces of which are marked by

that verdancy, smoothness and uniformity which please the eye. The houses are comparatively few, yet they bear the marks of neatness and every indication of the thrift of the inmates. Two or three of them, are decidedly beyond the average of country village habitations, among which may be mentioned that of CHAS. HERRICK, a successful shoe-manufacturer, the interior of whose establishment bears testimony to the extent of his operations. Mr. HERRICK'S house has been erected within a few years, and there is another near it which would indicate the pecuniary success of its owner. The CLEVELAND House, on the opposite side of the way, is a structure which, though of antique construction, presents a look of freshness and uniqueness combined; and is one of those mansions that would invariably prompt the passing railroad traveller to inquire of his neighbor on the next seat what recollections cluster about the place. We are not aware that there are any, and therefore content our imagination with a revel within its walls, or a stroll over the beautiful hill which rises up behind it.

Since the Danvers and Georgetown railroad was opened, there has been quite a little amount of building in the village. There are two or three houses on the steep road which winds over "Lake's Hill"—an elevation which, in its day, has sent many pomological specimens to our agricultural and horticultural shows. One or two houses have been erected near the depot, too, and Mr. WRIGHT, another shoe-manufacturer, of the place, has, within a late period, built a new house creditable to the looks of the place.

The people of Topsfield are mostly farmers, and have been distinguished for the pursuit of land-tillage from the earliest times. The Treadwell Farm, bequeathed, by the late Dr. TREADWELL, to the Essex Agricultural Society, the CROWNINSHIELD and BRADSTREET Farms, and numerous others of lesser note, make the place distinguished in the annals of local agriculture. There are a few old names peculiar to Topsfield,—PERKINS, WILDES, TOWNE, BALCH, and perhaps others,—most of whom continue to till the farms of their fathers. There is much fruit raised in the place, and the yield of apples is usually very large. Many of these find a market in Salem, either in the natural state or in the shape

of sweet cider, of which the Topsfield manufacture is behind nothing of that line, in quality. Aside from the manufacture of shoes, this town is but little distinguished other than as an agricultural place. It has its local mechanics, however, and the business of butchery as conducted by the Messrs. Munday, near the depot, has been distinguished for years, all the county over, for supplying a very considerable proportion of the nutriment of this anti-vegetarian neighborhood. A blacksmith's shop has sprung into existence near the depot, and the quick and continued descent of the hammer upon the anvil indicates a fair supply of work to be done. There are two groceries in the place, one of which is kept by Mr. KIMBALL, the other by Mr. ADAMS. Mr. ADAMS' store, in addition to the honor of dispensing West India Goods to the good people, performs the duty of post-office, and is consequently a conspicuous center for the diffusion of local news and general information. We are not to presume that the profits from this office will quite equal those of the big cities; and so the P. M. can continue to perform the duties of his station to the acceptance of the citizens, without essential danger of being beheaded for opinion's sake.

There are two churches in the town, one of the Methodist and the other of the Orthodox Congregational denomination. Each meeting-house is graced with a spire, which looms up with the usual architectural beauty of such structures, and as a convenient mark to notify the approaching visitor that Topsfield is in close proximity. The Congregational Church was formed in Nov. 1663, though there was preaching in the place twenty years earlier. Rev. THOMAS GILBERT, a native of Scotland, was the first preacher and he remained at his post eight years, when he resigned, and died two years afterwards. We believe there have been nine pastors, in all, connected with this church, the sixth being Rev. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON, father of the Clerk of Courts for this county, and to whom Judge CUMMINS, at the Topsfield celebration, ten years ago, said the description of Goldsmith's "Village Preacher" would apply:—"A man he was to all the country dear."

The Methodist Society has been formed thirty years. The Academy in Topsfield is a structure of considerable note,

and is pleasantly and healthfully situated upon an elevation which rejoices in the classic designation, "Academy Hill." The institution is under the charge of different instructors, from time to time, and its patronage is secured from the citizens of this and the neighboring towns. A year or two since, C. H. HOLMES, a lawyer of Topsfield,—and a pretty *tall* specimen of the profession, at that,—wrote a humorous article, in verse, describing a fair by the friends of this institution. It may be amusing to the reader to hear the reasons—described in rhyme—why parents should send their children to this academy. They are true, as this passage will show:—

First, Topsfield is a healthy place,
Well tested by our long-lived race;
Our hill slopes have a bracing air,
That paints our ladies' cheeks so fair;
Our vales are free from chilly damps
That pierce the frame with colds and cramps;
And there's no miasmatic flood,
Where gangrene waters long have stood;
And we've a mountain barrier,
Where the cold East comes just "so far,"
'Neath which is a wide extended plain
Teeming with crops of grass and grain;
While our hill pastures grow the herd,
Which yields the cheese engendered curd;
And we have many rides and walks
On hills and vales for pleasant talks;
And then we have a famous pond;
A miniature Loch Lomond,
Which is well stocked with perch and pout,
And pickerel and salmon trout;
And here one, too, can take a sail,
If he'll in skiff, adventure, frail;
And those who like it surely could
Hunt birds and squirrels in the wood;
Take any kind of exercise
To make one "healthy, wealthy, wise,"
And practise every simple fun,
That youth e'er practise 'neath the sun;

And then there's not a fairer view,
 In any land, or old or new,
 Than's seen from our own "River-hill,"
 With scope of plain and copse and rill;
 And the meandering Agawam,
 Threading its way through meads of balm.

* * * * *

And then our genial neighborhood
 Has always been esteemed quite good;
 Go where we will we find some bad—
 And yet none better can be had;
 Those, too, who leave the place to roam,
 Recall with joy their "Mountain Home."
 A stranger here, by lineage,
 I hope to spend a green old age;
 I like not well these far, far roams,
 And this to me's the HOME OF HO(L)MES.

The first settlement of Topsfield dates as far back as 1635, although the town was *incorporated* two hundred and ten years ago. The Indian name of the place was *Sheweene-meady*. The whites called it New Meadows though it was incorporated under the name of Topsfield, Aug. 29, 1650—the name being taken from Topsfield in England, from which place some of the first settlers probably migrated. The two hundredth anniversary was celebrated ten years ago, and the interesting occasion was participated in by many wandering sons of the place, who returned for the purpose. Several men whose names are prominent in our colonial history are identified as residents and land owners in the town, among whom are Govs. ENDICOTT and BRADSTREET and Deputy Gov. SAMUEL SYMONDS. The people of the place have always maintained a patriotic devotion to the principles of liberty, and took action, by vote, on various occasions, favorable to the policy which resulted in American Independence. Many other facts of interest could be presented in this connection; but this article is already too long for a single dose. Besides, we must hasten away in the coming train for Boxford, of which place our contemplated remarks must be deferred till another issue of the Gazette.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 18, 1860.

TOPSFIELD.—A Company of Wide Awakes has been organized in *Topsfield*, with the following officers:—Commander—Nath'l Conant; Adjutant—Charles J. P. Floyd; Lieutenants—J. Brown, A. Orne, E. P. Averell and J. M. Phillips; Sergeant—N. Gould, J. Strangman, J. B. Lake and M. B. Hill.

Hon. D. W. Gooch was to address the citizens of Topsfield at Union Hall, last evening, Oct. 11th, upon the issues of the pending Presidential contest.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 12, 1860.

TOPSFIELD.—There was a Wide Awake demonstration in Topsfield on Tuesday evening, at which the Wide Awakes of the town with those of Georgetown and a delegation from Danvers participated. The procession marched through the village accompanied by the Salem Brass Band, and at nine o'clock, a bountiful supper was partaken of at Union Hall, which is in the basement of the Methodist Church. Speeches were made by Messrs. W. D. Northend and E. W. Kimball of Salem, and Harrison Gray, A. A. Putnam and J. W. Andrews of Danvers.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 23, 1860.

TOPSFIELD. *Treadwell Farm*,—Jan. 14. The Thermometer registered on Jan. 13, at 7 o'clock A. M., 16° below; at 2 o'clock P. M., 6 above; at 9 P. M., 10° below. The day clear; wind N. W.; force 3. Monday morning Jan. 14, 7 A. M., 14 below; N. W.; force 3.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 15, 1861.

TOPSFIELD—*Treadwell Farm, Feb. 11, 1861.* The thermometer registered on the 7th of February, at 7 o'clock A. M., 32° above zero; at 2 o'clock P. M., 44° above; at 9 o'clock P. M., 0. On the 8th of Feb., at 7 o'clock A. M., 24° below zero; at 2 o'clock P. M., 11° below; at 9 o'clock P. M., 11° below. On the 9th of Feb., at 7 o'clock A. M., 9° below; at 2 o'clock P. M., 20 above zero; and at 9 o'clock P. M., 15° above. Wind on the 8th of Feb., N. W.; Force 5.

NATHAN W. BROWN.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 12, 1861.

TOPSFIELD.—The fourth of July was observed in Topsfield in a very becoming and proper manner. A tall flag-staff—perhaps one hundred and twenty-five feet high—had been erected on the Common near the meeting-houses in the town, and an American flag was duly flung to the breeze with all the ceremony proper to the occasion, and the character of the anniversary. The performances commenced at about one o'clock, and addresses were made by Mr. Todd and Mr. Augustine Peabody—the latter delivering the dedicatory address. From this place the citizens formed in procession and marched to the Grove opposite Dr. Merriam's accompanied by the Rowley Brass Band, where all the pleasures usual at pic-nic gatherings were indulged in very satisfactorily to all concerned. Here a stand was erected, and various gentlemen delivered addresses. Mr. John Wright presided, offering appropriate remarks, and he introduced, severally, Charles H. Holmes, Esq., who read a poem to the American flag; Albert C. Perkins, Esq.; Rev. Mr. Wildes, Rector of Grace Church, Salem; Hon. S. P. Webb, Mayor of Salem; Hon. A. Huntington and Hon. W. D. Northend of Salem; Hon. A. W. Dodge of Hamilton; and Rev. Anson McCloud of Topsfield. The speeches were eloquent and interesting, and very patriotic in tone; and the citizens of the town must surely feel gratified at the very pleasant manner in which everything passed off.

Salem Gazette, July 9, 1861.

DEATHS

In Topsfield, July 31, Deacon John Wright, 57 years. By a remarkable fatality the two deacons of the Orthodox Church in this place, Messrs Peabody and Wright, both of them prominent churchmen and citizens, have been removed by death within one week.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 9, 1861.

TOPSFIELD.—We have been shown a specimen of sewed army shoes, which it seems to us is the perfection of sewed work. The stitching of the sample before us was performed by Mr. LEWIS K. PERKINS, of Topsfield, who is among the ingenious mechanics of Essex County. If all the sewed

shoes are similar to the work manufactured in Topsfield, they must supersede all pegged work, and during the war and even afterward, must be in great demand. A large portion of the army shoes are being made in Essex County, and Topsfield gets a good share of the work.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 5, 1861.

New Postage Stamps.

Having received a supply of Postage Stamps of the NEW STYLE, I am prepared to exchange them for an equivalent amount of the old issue, during a period of Six Days after this date.

Those of the old style will not be received in payment of postage after that time.

B. P. Adams, P. M.

Topsfield, Nov. 15, 1861.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 15, 1861.

TOPSFIELD, Dec. 5. For the benefit of your readers in this locality, I send you a list of those persons who have enlisted in the Mass. Volunteers, from this town: 2d Regiment, Co. C., David Casey; Co. F., Edward O. Gould, Otis F. Dodge, Chas. H. Clark, T. E. Phillips, Charles H. Lake.—12th Reg., Co. D., James Brown, E. P. Averill, Joel Sweeney, James Dunlop, John Lavin, Philip Welch, John Gould, Charles Carmody, John M. Phillips.—14th Reg., Co. A., John Smith, jr.; Co. I., Daniel H. Smith.—23d Reg., Co. A., John Smith, Benj. F. Deland, Wm. Conant. Co. F., Charles J. P. Floyd, John Brown Lake, Wm. H. Janes, Edward Cummings, Charles Clark, John S. Dudley, Melvin Hill; Co. G., John Gunnison; Co. F., John Jewitt; not attached, Aaron A. Andrews.—Light Artillery, No. 4, John Bradstreet, John W. Rea, Albert Dickerson.—20th Reg., Co. H., John Stevens; Topographical Engineers, Arthur Merriam.

The following named persons have shipped in the U. S. Navy: John Hoyt, John Watson, W. H. H. Foster, Nathan H. Brown, William Clark, Charles Shaumway.

In addition, the company first named, is the Sharpshooters, Capt. Saunders, in which Moses Deland of this place enlisted.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 10, 1861.

The Battle of Roanoke. Among the wounded reported are John B. Lake of Topsfield of Capt. Whipple's Co. F, 23d Regt., in wrist.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 18, 1862.

February 22d in Topsfield

TOPSFIELD, Feb. 24, 1862. No more in accordance with Executive appointment than with feelings of patriotism, our citizens, after a few hours notice, came together on the evening of the 22d, and by 7 o'clock our large Union Hall was well filled. A. S. Peabody, Esq., took the chair, and in a well timed and patriotic speech electrified the audience and made it easy for others to speak who should follow him. A very appropriate invocation of Divine Grace was offered by Rev. Mr. Peabody, a returned missionary from Turkey, whose heart is as warm for the Union as it is for the conversion of the heathen. Next came the reading of Washington's Farewell Address, by Mr. J. W. Perkins, a student of Harvard College, followed by addresses from Rev. Mr. McLoud, Rev. Mr. Moore of Boston, and Mr. Todd of this town. The exercises were interspersed by singing the Star Spangled Banner, Hail Columbia, and closed with Old Hundred, in which the assembly joined. We were disappointed in not having the impromptu verses prepared a few hours before the meeting, by C. H. Holmes, Esq., on account of a hoarse cold, but who has kindly furnished me with a copy, which I see is dedicated to your paper as follows:—

To the Editor of the Mercury:

The *Twenty-Second* came off here,
With more eclat than any year
I e're remember to have seen
Since I in Topsfield-ville have been.
Our flag was hoisted, bells were rung,
Speeches were made, and songs were sung,
And all expressed their unfeigned joy,
Both man and woman, girl and boy.
At eventide there came the call,
For speakers, all around the hall,
And promptly answering to their name,
Forth from the ranks the speakers came;

And having spent an hour or so
About our country and our foe,
We all with one accord retired,
With patriotic feelings fired.
In all the fetes for vap(o)ry thought,
I am the common speaker sought;
For in all matters needing wind,
I'm no live man a whit behind.
Like Stentor at the siege of Troy,
Who, when he shouted, hip-a-hoy!
His one shout contained the noises
Of full fifty human voices;
So when I speak Stentorian,
In wind I'm fifty times a man,
And am a gentleman, no doubt,
Of consequence here round about.
Of course I even addressed this time,
To make a speech in off-hand rhyme,
But owing to a bad sore throat,
I could not read the speech I wrote;
So lest this famous speech be lost,
Which me two hours of effort cost,
To you I send the speech I made,
Just as I should the speech have said.

INTRODUCTION.

Friend Adams met me on the way,
Just about twelve o'clock to-day,
And said he wished I'd speak to-night,
Say something if it wasn't bright:
(Rather a doubtful compliment,
If this my friend sincerely meant.)
And so with love of country fired,
I thought I'd do as he desired;
So I am here to say my say,
In my plain, common, off-hand way.
I can insure you nothing nice,
With scarce a bit or grain of spice,
But much like that which always come
From yours, and so forth, C. H. HOLMES.

THE SPEECH.

Ladies, and gentlemen, and all,
Assembled in our *Union Hall*,
Whose very name the heart inspires,
With sacred, patriotic fires,
And links it with that man of men,
The saint, the hero-citizen,
Our country's noblest, grandest son,
Our own immortal WASHINGTON—
On this our chieftain's natal day,
As we to him our homage pay,
It joys my heart with you to meet,
For interchanging kindly greet,
And on this wise my joy's more great
At this our present day and date,
That while in some states men are shorn
Of all their rights, themselves forlorn,
Their towns, their livings, lands laid waste,
By rebels of the ruthless caste,
Brothers opposed in deadly feud,
Their hands in brother's blood imbrued,
And in these parts dread civil war
Usurps the place of civil law—
That in these times we may recline,
Beneath our fig tree and our vine,
Rejoicing in that liberty,
Which makes us freest of the free;
That boon for which our fathers plead,
That cause for which our fathers bled,
That heritage to us so dear,
That Union which we all revere.
For 'tis the popular will and voice,
It is the people's idol choice,
Our country's head and corner stone
Which binds the many with the one;
It is the rock on which we stand;
It is the basis of our land;
Our nation's great Palladium;
The Zion where our people come;
Our politic, our social all,

And with it we must stand and fall !
To keep this Union unimpaired,
For which our fathers' arms were bared ;
To well support our Union's cause,
Our Constitution and our Laws.
Their sons have taken now the field,
And with their blood the tie have sealed ;
Determined with their latest breath,
To fight foul treason to the death ;
And never, never to give o'er,
Till treason's cry is heard no more ;
Or there be found a traitorous foe,
From Lake-land e'en to Mexico.
What though in swelling stream, our blood
Flows like the Mississippi flood,
And thousands stiffened lie in gore,
And thousands and ten thousands more,
And though it millions, billions cost,
To well maintain our conq'ring host,
All these are trifles light as air
To what we are, and what we were.
Aye, what we must, what we shall be,
When we declare our people free.
On then, my countrymen, march on
To victories like Donelson,
Hatteras, Henry, Beaufort,
And others of the same report—
Until the common hue and cry,
Shall be down, down with treachery ;
And like the devil o'er the steep,
Ingulf it in the deepest deep,
Till e'en the name be so absurd,
'Twill never here again be heard ;
And may it, and its authors go,
Down to the lowest realms below.
A tribute now to them I'd pay,
Who did their country's call obey,
And from their homes and friends would hie,
And for their country fight and die—
Engraven on their country's heart,
More lasting than the works of art,

Will be their deeds of glory done,
Transmitted down from sire to son.
As when th' Olympic victor came,
To his own home, renowned in name,
The wall his citizens took down,
And him in triumph bore through town,
So when our brave defenders come,
Victors, to their own native home,
To those who fought, to those who bled,
With laurels we would crown their head,
But more to them who gave their life,
In this, their country's trying strife
We'd say in words of one inspired,
Whose harp to lofty strains was lyred,
Hail! all hail the patriot's grave
Valor's venerable bed!
Hail the memory of the brave
And the memory of the dead!
Honored, thrice honored, be their name,
And their rich reward be this:
Immortality of fame!
Immortality of bliss!

Salem Gazette, March 4, 1862.

DEATHS

In Topsfield, June 30, Mr. John Bowden, 40 yrs. The subject of this notice was born and reared in England, where he early imbibed the spirit of industry, patience, perseverance, integrity, and Christian faith. He was kind in spirit, and not bigoted in his views and feelings. He possessed more than ordinary abilities, and in youth was blessed with Divine grace. His amiableness, piety and activity secured to him, in a high degree, the respect of all who knew him. For several months he had experienced great suffering which he bore with Christian fortitude. He calmly met his end, trusting surely in Jesus for Salvation. His funeral was attended by the Rev. Father Merrill of the Methodist church in Topsfield, who made a very affectionate address to the mourners and the assembly who were gathered to pay their last tribute of respect to one who had been known and respected so generally.

Salem Gazette, July 8, 1862.

TOPSFIELD.—A fatal accident occurred at the Essex County Agricultural farm on Saturday. Edward W. Thompson, a lad about 13 years of age, was riding a horse attached to a cultivator or some other farm implement, and in leaning over to take a drink of water from a pail, which was handed him by the man in charge of the implement, may have touched the horse with his foot in such a manner as to cause the animal to start and throw the lad. The horse kicked about till secured, but the lad was killed.

Salem Gazette, July 11, 1862.

DEATHS

In Topsfield, Sept. 7, Mr. Daniel Perkins, aged 60 yrs. His death was very sudden and unexpected. He attended meeting in the forenoon, and after the service appeared as well and cheerful as usual. Between twelve and one o'clock, he had sat down to his dinner, and was mixing a dish of baked apples and milk when his wife saw him falter, and his head drop forward upon the table; and immediately, in attempting to raise his head, found that life had departed. Mr. Perkins was a valuable and highly respected citizen.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 9, 1862.

TOPSFIELD.—On Monday night, the quiet little village of Topsfield was visited by a regular gang of thieves, as it would seem by the following list of adventures on that night: The stable of Mr. Charles Herrick was broken into and robbed of one horse, one new covered wagon, two harnesses, two blankets, one hay cutter, &c.; in fact, everything in Mr. Herrick's stable of any value that could be easily moved, was carried away. It is supposed that this was the first of their depredations. The depot of the Newburyport Railroad was also entered and two cases of army shoes, two lanterns and several other small articles stolen. We hear of their doings next, on the premises of Mr. William Welch, in whose yard a whole week's washing was out. This the rogues cleaned out entirely, not a vestige of anything being left on the lines. We hear of a number of other cases of stealing during the same night, probably by the same gang, such as stealing apples, beans, squashes, &c. Mr. Herrick has offered a re-

ward of 75 dollars for the detection of the thieves and recovery of the property. The robbers were from out of town, undoubtedly.—*Marshall's Express*.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 7, 1862.

DEATHS

In Topsfield, Nov. —, Mr. Thomas Perkins Munday, about 40 yrs.—one of the largest men in Essex County.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 18, 1862.

TOPSFIELD, Nov. 19. The funeral ceremonies of the late George Hobson, a member of Co. F, 40th Reg., Mass. Vols., took place yesterday at the Methodist church, Rev. Mr. McLoud, of the Congregational church, and Rev. Mr. Peabody, a returned missionary of the east, officiating. His remains were followed to the grave, by the company under command of Capt. Noyes, of Camp Lander, and a large number of the inhabitants of Topsfield and adjoining towns.

Mr. Hobson died some two weeks since, in the hospital near Washington, and his remains were brought on for interment in his own town. His christian patriotism prompted him to enlist and he has thus early fallen at the age of only twenty-five years. Hobson will be long remembered by his friends and acquaintance, for he was endued with many amiable qualities. He was active and energetic and gave great promise of a bright and prosperous future. He was an affectionate husband, a kind friend and an humble christian. His acquaintances will tender their affectionate sympathies to the stricken wife, parents and relations who mourn the loss of a loved husband, son and brother. R.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 25, 1862.

DIED. In Topsfield, Nov. 11, Mr. Thos. P. Munday, 44 years, 6 mos. In the death of Mr. Munday, the loss is not confined to his family or immediate neighborhood. His extensive business was such as to afford him a wider range of acquaintance than most men in this community. His business being that of butcher and provision dealer, his name has been familiar throughout the states of Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire, as he had men employed in those states, purchasing cattle and sheep, scattering thousands upon thousands

of dollars among the farmers. His droves were forwarded him by railroad. In former years he had many thousands of sheep from Canada, and paid in one season five hundred dollars duty on sheep alone. The larger part of his business was wholesale, and he furnished many of the retailers in Salem, South Danvers, Marblehead, Beverly and Haverhill with meats; though from his neatly and tastefully painted wagons, the families of many of our towns were furnished with clean and wholesome meats. It may with safety be said, that few men enjoyed a larger share of confidence in the community than Mr. Munday. In his dealings he was honest, honorable and generous. In his own neighborhood,—among his own neighbors, his loss will be sadly felt. Among all classes,—the rich found in him an agreeable and pleasant companion, the middle and business class, a man in whom they had confidence, and the poor a benefactor. It has been his practice, in past years, to supply poor families with a nice turkey and other provisions for Thanksgiving, and aside from his own family, none will have greater cause to mourn than the poor and needy.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 27, 1862.

It was quite a remarkable fact in connection with the Topsfield celebration that every speaker announced to be present was on hand in spite of the rain. Rarely is gathered together so strong a list of speakers outside of a large city and the speeches were of a high quality throughout.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 2, 1863.

Samuel Shepard, Esq., brother of the late Michael Shepard, Esq., of Salem, died suddenly on Friday, in Topsfield. He left his boarding house soon after dinner, to step into a neighbor's, and shortly after was found dead in the street.

On the same day, Mr. Israel Rea met with a severe accident. He went to the barn about 4 o'clock, A. M., to feed his cattle. He ascended a ladder, and when at the top it slipped and he fell, injuring himself very severely if not fatally.

Salem Gazette, March 13, 1863.

By Salmon D. Hood, Auctioneer.

SMALL FARM FOR SALE.

For sale at Auction on FRIDAY NEXT, the 3d. of April, at 11 o'clock, A. M.:

A Farm in Topsfield, of about 15 acres, with a Dwelling House and Barn thereon, three-fourths of a mile from railroad station, churches, and school house, formerly known as the JOSEPH GOULD estate. Sale absolute. Conditions easy.

Reference to A. HUNTINGTON, Salem.

Topsfield, March 30, 1863.

Salem Gazette, April 17, 1863.

TOPSFIELD.—The dwelling house, barn, and out buildings, belonging to Mr. Ephraim Averill of Ipswich, (Linebrook Parish, near Topsfield,) were burned on Wednesday last. A little boy of about four years old applied a lighted match to some hay in the yard, near the barn, and this being connected with the house by a shed, immediately communicated the fire to the house, which, with most of the furniture, was destroyed, together with several tons of hay. No insurance.

Several cases of small pox are now in Topsfield. It is supposed that a young man lately returned from the army brought it in his clothes. As our Selectmen have taken special care to prevent its spreading, but little fear is felt.

Mr. Rufus Welch of this town has lately lost four children by the diphtheria—two were buried last Sabbath.

Salem Gazette, April 17, 1863.

TOPSFIELD. The town, the last year, appropriated \$600 for schools, with instructions to lessen the expenses, but to continue the schools the usual length, and, if necessary, to draw on the Treasurer. The funds, according to the annual report, have been expended as follows: North School, \$166; East School, \$141.25; South School, \$197.87; Centre School, senior department, \$151.50; Primary, \$107.40. The average attendance during the *Summer Term* was:—North, 21; East, 14.6; South, 21.5; Centre, senior, 39.75; Centre, primary, 46. During the *Winter Terms*:—North, 18.5; East, 25; South, 32.8; Centre, senior, 27.4; Centre, primary, 19.1. The Report states that "the common and

most useful branches have been pursued with rather more than common success." With the exception of two terms in the Winter, the schools "have all been in charge of females, who have discharged the duties to very general acceptance." The report makes complaint of absence and truancy, though we do not infer that the evil is worse here than in other towns.

Salem Gazette, May 8, 1863.

In our account of the interesting services at the twenty-fifth anniversary of Rev. Mr. Coggin's settlement, in the last paper, it will be remembered that we alluded to one or two old records pertinently raked up to enliven the occasion, by Rev. Mr. Pike, of Rowley, and Rev. Mr. McCloud of Topsfield. These records had reference to the Topsfield and the Boxford churches. From that furnished by the Topsfield minister, we gather that the relations between the two parishes at the time alluded to were not particularly harmonious. It was certainly clear that, in the eyes of Topsfield, Boxford did not show a "christian spirit" in reference to the boundary line. This ill-feeling between the two parishes was so notorious, that one or two anecdotes are still extant to illustrate the case. One Boxford man, for instance, is reputed to have received the announcement, on his sick bed, that there was no hope of his recovery—in short that he was to die, and had but a few hours more to live. "Is it sure," he asked, "that I am to die?" "Yes," was the answer. "Then" he said, "I have one last request to make; and that is, *that I be buried with my back towards Topsfield!*" His belief in the evil character of Topsfield was certainly strong, even in death; but not stronger than that of a Topsfield man in the full vigor of life, respecting the questionable character of Boxford. He lived near the boundary, and, on turning out his cow to graze by the roadside, gave, as his closing injunction to the boy who was to watch her, a special charge that he must be sure and not let the animal nibble even a mouthful over the Boxford line, for *he didn't want her to give sour milk!* Not having lived either in Topsfield or Boxford at the time these transactions are reputed to have occurred, we must not be held accountable for the positive truth of the stories. We give them as cheaply as we got them, simply remarking that they no doubt correctly illustrate the state of the case at one time. It is really a wonder how two such

very beautiful towns could ever have manifested ill-feeling toward each other. But these things transpired a long time ago. Matters have of course improved since then. If Mr. Coggin, of the one parish, and Mr. McCloud of the other, are permitted to continue their good teachings a time longer, they will no doubt be able to obliterate all trace of the former jealousies, even if they have not already done so.

Salem Gazette, May 15, 1863.

The following communication in regard to the formation of the Essex Agricultural Society, was received from the Hon. John W. Proctor.

South Danvers, Feb. 11, 1863.

Dear Doctor:—As you seem to have a fancy for overhauling the bones of the Agricultural fathers, who first organized the Essex Agricultural Society; I will state such facts as are within my memory; as you and I have passed the line of *seventy*, after which nothing is to be looked for but sorrow and trouble. I remember a meeting of farmers at the Topsfield Hotel. Among them were, John Adams and Hobart Clark of Andover, Temple Cutler of Hamilton, David Cummins of Salem, Paul Kent of Newbury, James Kimball of Bradford, Elisha Mack of Salem, Orlando March of Newbury, Stephen Mighell of Rowley, Amos Perley of Boxford, Aaron Perley of Boxford, John Peabody of Topsfield, Ichabod Tucker of Salem, Enoch Tappan of Newbury, Stephen Tappan do, Jacob Towne, Jr. of Topsfield, Eleazer Putnam, Danvers, Daniel Putnam, do., Andrew Nichols do., George Osgood of do. Messrs. Clark and yourself are the only survivors of this patriotic band. From them sprung the Society. They organized by voting Timothy Pickering, of Wenham, to be their President. This was in 1818. An act of incorporation was obtained. Mr. Pickering delivered two addresses to his associates. Dr. Nichols delivered the first public address; this was at Topsfield, Oct., 1820. The next address was by Rev. Peter Eaton, of Boxford.

I have been present at every meeting of the Society and of the the Trustees, since its formation, and have always felt a strong interest in its prosperity.

Very truly yours,

John W. Proctor.

Salem Gazette, May 22, 1863.

For the Salem Gazette.

HOME MARTYRS.

BY J. W. PERKINS.

Say not that those alone who go
To lay their lives on freedom's altar,
Are the brave patriot souls who know
The griefs at which our spirits falter,
For when with humble joy we give
The praises that their merits win them,
We know that warm and tender live
The lives of others bound up in them.

The burdened hearts they leave behind
Who dying win a soldier's glory,
Close fast their woe and breaking find
No pitying voice to tell their story.
In silent, lonely, withering grief,
They bow beneath the rod that chastens,
And feel that earth has no relief
On which the sinking spirit fastens.

Parents whose sands of life have run
Well nigh their earth's appointed season,
Who give their life up in the son
They send to die in fighting treason,
Yield him with bursting hearts that speak
How keenly 'tis that in the giving
They feel no death their boy can meet
Is sadder than their lonely living.

Go to your Sabbath halls where crowds
Have met within those sacred places,
And see the shadows that like clouds
Pass o'er the grieving tearful faces,
When but the softest words let fall
Of those who've died to save a nation,
To many an aching heart recall
The nearness of their application.

Each heaving breast and tearful face
 Tells the subdued but deep emotion
 For one that's gone, on whom was placed
 All that there is of life's devotion.
 Those tears commingle with the drops
 That flow as freedom's fresh libation
 From out the bleeding heart that stops
 And weeps its life out for a nation.

The pang that purest natures know
 Is not the shaft that frees the spirit.
 Rather by far the soul would go
 Than lose the life that lies most near it.
 The deadliest of those trying fires
 That burn out life's intrinsic gladness
 Is where the heart *itself* expires
 And leaves the life a night of sadness.

Salem Gazette, June 26, 1863.

THE DRAFT BEGUN.

District 24—Topsfield.

John H. Towne	Jotham Welch
Edwin S. Clifford	Jas Waters
John H. Caldwell	Warren Nichols
Chas J. T. Rea	John F. Averill
Jos E. Andrews	Benj P. Hobson
Wm W. Clifford	Alonzo Rea
Thos A. Perkins	Calvin W. Fuller
Salmon D. Hood	Edwd H. Ferguson
Samuel Bickford jr	Alonzo Neagle
Ethimer E. Pike	Josiah P. Perkins
J. Porter Gould	Wm Gould
Henry E. Lake	Waldo Dickinson
Henry P. Kneeland	Geo H. Donaldson
John A. Peterson	Chas A. Peirce
Geo H. Johnson	Daniel A. Conant
Wm Welch jr	Josiah A. Lamson
Jos A. Bixby	Willard A. Dwinell

Salem Gazette, July 10, 1863.

For the Salem Gazette.

NEVER FORSAKE,

BY J. W. PERKINS

Down the dim future that's lying before us
Trembling but hopeful we'll tread o'er the way.
Even though clouds gather round us and o'er us,
They have a lining more bright than the day.
For from the mist that seems folding around us,
Deadly as damps from the Stygian lake,
Out from the shadows of woe that surround us
Come the fond accents "I'll never forsake."

Fierce are the foes that arise without number,
Strewing the path with the bones of the slain,
Who in their weakness have yielded to slumber,
Sinking to sleep n'er to waken again;
Even while he in whose service they dally
Prays for their pardon and bids them to wait,
Promising that in the shades of the valley
He will be with them and "never forsake."

When the wild lightnings are luridly flashing,
Wreathing their net-work of wrath on the sky,
Whirlwinds and death-bearing tempests are clashing,
Showing their wreck as they madly sweep by;
Calmly through all this assurance is brightening;
Earthquakes may rock us and tempests may shake;
Out from the whirlwind, the storm and the lightning
Comes the "small voice," "I will never forsake."

Firm with the helmet of hope will we gird us,
Burnished by conflict and furnished by one
Who in our weakness and languishing heard us,
Healing our wounds with the blood of his son;
And from his throne condescends to address you
In the fond words that he lovingly spake,—
"I will watch over to comfort and bless you,
I will be with you and never forsake."

Cold is the flowing of death's turbid river;
 Fearful we falter beside the dark stream;
 But as we doubtingly draw back and shiver,
 Soft o'er its waters there falleth a gleam.
 Radiant angels of God are descending
 Down to its brink from the heavenly gate.
 While with their anthems his promise is blending,—
 "I will be with you and never forsake."

Salem Gazette, July 10, 1863.

TOPSFIELD, *Aug. 8.*—Mr. William Towne, son of Ezra Towne, Esq., of New York, was attacked by a cross bull, last evening, and very severely injured. His life was saved by the presence of mind of Mr. Erastus Clark, who courageously entered the enclosure and attacked the bull, which gave Mr. Towne an opportunity to escape.

Rev. Mr. McLoud preached a sermon on Thanksgiving day upon the war, in which he very ably considered the commencement, causes, and the present condition of the contest. It was an able discourse, and showed that he was thoroughly posted upon the condition of the country. It was well received by an attentive audience. It should be printed for general circulation. P.

Aug. 10.—While Mr. Thomas Perley was at supper on Saturday evening, a valuable gold watch and chain were stolen from his shop. Soon police officer Henry Lake was upon the track of the thieves, who were two fellows whom he followed to Beverly, thence to Salem, and there arrested them both. The watch was recovered. They came before the Police court on Monday morning. Thieves had better mind how they come to Topsfield while officer Lake is about, they stand as poor a chance here, as they did in Boston in the days of Constable Clapp.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 6, 1863.

IPSWICH.—*Railroad Project.*—We understand that a movement is on foot for a branch railroad from Ipswich to Topsfield to connect with the Boston and Maine, and the legislature will be petitioned to grant a charter to that effect. Some \$20,000 is already pledged towards the stock.—*Beverly Citizen.*

Salem Gazette, Nov. 6, 1863.

TOPSFIELD.—*Railroad Accident*.—As the freight train was approaching the station in this town, on the Newburyport and Danvers road, from Boston, on Saturday night, after dark, Warren E. Clark, about 13 years of age, a son of Mr. Erastus Clark, jumped upon one of the cars, with the intention of getting on board; but missing his hold he slipped and fell against the wheel, injuring him so severely that he died on Sunday morning.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 26, 1863.

FOR SALE.

IN TOPSFIELD, a new and convenient COTTAGE DWELLING HOUSE, built especially to order without reference to selling. In all respects convenient—thoroughly painted outside and in, with window blinds. Connected is a good Barn, with a cellar under it; a good Garden, containing about half an acre, on which are several young Fruit Trees. The owner having moved out of town will sell cheap, and make the terms of payment liberal. Enquire of B. P. ADAMS, Topsfield, or DEAN A. PERLEY, Danvers Plains.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 11, 1863.

TOPSFIELD, MARCH, 1864.

To the Editors of the Salem Gazette:

Inclosed is an "off hand," spoken at a War Meeting in Georgetown, and by request, placed in your hands, which you will please insert in your paper, obliging the solicitors and your obedient servant,

C. H. HOLMES.

After the speeches we have heard,
 For me to say a single word
 About our exigence and war,
 Expediency and the law,
 And all of the et cetera
 That interests the present day,—
 I say for me to add one word
 Would be a bore if not absurd,
 Since all I'd say would be but trites
 And on these subjects throw no light.

Yet still, I love my country's cause,
Its institutions and its laws;
As any man I'd go as far
To carry on this holy War;—
For well I know our Union's fall
Would drown our civil social all;
And he, if need be, who'd not hie,
And for his country fight or die,
I care not whether young or old,
Of summer's heat, or winter's cold,
I care not what his business plight,
Whether called out by day or night,
Whoever when summoned who'd not go
And fight against his country's foe.
Let every such one be, I say,
Anathama marenatha.
Aye let him, and 'tis no outburst,
Let every such one be accurst.
Treason's defined in our law books,
Which any one can see who looks,
To give the foe "a comfort, aid,"
Or "levy war" of any grade.
'Tis not the open raid alone,
But secret aid by which 'tis known.
So he when summoned who backs down
The eligible in the town,
Or he who subject to a draft
Escapes by some sly trick and craft,
Perhaps to Canada departs,
Or stays at home by wily arts;
Or he the scared ere drafted sneak
The "Blue-nose" contraband who'd seek;
Or he who tampers, hinders, mars,
Any or aught in these our wars,
A traitor, coward, loon is he,
Who "comforteth" the enemy!

The other day some parson said,
"What do you call a 'Copperhead,'
"A Copperhead I said 's a snake

Living in some foul pool or lake,
I do not mean our pools or lakes,
I'd just remark this for our sakes,
Or else some noisome desert fen
Far from the haunts of busy men;
And there he lies concealed all day
In covert, watching for his prey,
And if his prey's off guard, asleep,
Then forward stealthily he'll creep,
And with his poisonous fangs will dart
Into his victim's vital part,
Which having done he'll then retire
Into his pool, or fen, or mire.
And so in 'Copper' politics,
We all that's dark and treacherous fix,
For instance, this Vallandigham
Is just about a 'Copper' man.
We've round here some little coppers,
Another kind, toady-hoppers,
Much like "the speckled pig's account,
Which speckled pig no one could count;
Or like the flea one thought was there
And struck, and lo the place was bare;
Which seeming is, and yet is not;
Which can be, and can ne'er be caught!"

But says another inquirist,
"What is an Abolitionist?
A real, rank, out and outer,
Garrison and Phillips shouter,—
That Garrison who said so fell
Our 'Union was a league of Hell,'
And he, Lloyd Garrison, would go
For this our Union's overthrow?"
I've searched the Universe all round
E'en to its utmost mete and bound,
Have sought the things of earth, sea, air,
To find what could with this compare;—
Have taken from his dear abode
The loathsome lizard, slimy toad,
The owl, the vampire, and the bat,

Extreme of this, extreme of that.
 My search is fruitless, there is none,
 The Abolitionist's alone.
 An Abolitionist's below
 Compare, with any thing I know;
 And may this clique to Hades go—
 The cause of all our present woe!
 Aye every out and outer schism
 Copper, 'Nigger,' Secessionism.
 (Hades as Hell I here define
 Darkness, unseen, from *a eidein*).
 So may they go, those cliques I mean,
 Where they will ne'er again be seen

How far our parties here may go
 In politics, I scarcely know.
 Though some allege their bow is bent
 'Gainst rulers; not the government,
 Which specious reas'ning seems to me
 Like "whipping Satan round a tree."
 Yet now I think in this one case,
 Upon our union's present base,
 We should unite in one great clique,
 One union body politic,
 Where parties are as grains of sand
 To the whole universe of land.
 It matters not a whit to me
 What a man's politics may be;
 (And here I mean by politics
 The little petty, party cliques
 Which are but diff'rent policies
 That may be, or may not be wise,
 But which present upon their face
 The Constitution's union base,
 And not as many men suppose
 Are always governmental foes!)
 Suppose we'd go to Ipswich town,
 A place to us all here well known,—
 Well, you'll go by your travelled road,
 And I'll go round by my abode;—
 What matters it one whit, I say,

If we but reach it either way?
And so 'tis in our politics
If they're but true blue Union cliques.
I said, it matters not to me
What a man's politics may be,
Republican or Democrat,
Extreme or mean of this or that,—
He who'll to peace resolve this war,
And bring in every wond'ring star,
And fix it in the orbit right
On constellated Union light,
Whate'er his politics may be
That is the patriot for me.
I'm for the Union, that's my song;
I'm for the Union, right or wrong;
I'm for the Union heart and voice,—
That Union erst the people's choice,
That Union graven in the sky
For "vox populi, vox Dei."

But now that poser to the wise
The negro question does arise.
What with the negro shall we do?
What course with him shall we pursue?
Shall Mister Sumner be our guide,
Establishing State suicide?
Or would it be a whit more wise
To millions spend and colonize?
The "Freedman's lease," once "all the go,"
Has it or not wrought out a woe?
Or shall we turn them all out loose,
As purposed by some gander goose?
Or take Old Abe's—that honest man—
The present Presidential plan?
Or what would be the future state
Of negroes that we liberate?
Or can we, by our Union pact
Just as proposed, do either act?
What shall we do with this child-man?
Solve the enigma if you can.

Who'll from this snarl take out the kinks,
More intricate than pose of sphinx,
And put an end to this combat,
"To him I will take off my hat!"
All of the Border Slave States show
Slavery has got its fatal blow,
As half their slaves it may be said
Are liberated, gone or dead,
In Louis'ana, Arkansaw,
Half have skedaddled since the war,
Leaving the seven remaining states
In quite a fix by recent dates,
With full three millions slaves at least,
Or theirs, by strays, one third increased.
As slavery's being in our clime
Is just a question of mere time,
Shall we, at once stop slavery's heath,
Or let it die a lingering death?
Let the South pay the funeral charge?
Or let the nation pay at large?
A man once had a drunken wife,
The plague and torment of his life,
Who always gave the same replies,
To all his neighbors kind advice,
That "he, who had one, only knew
What with a drunken wife to do."
Advising neither this nor that
Still "verbum sapienti sat,"
(Which means the phrase we anglicise,
"A word's sufficient to the wise")!

We're on the eve of great events,
And we have great encouragements,
For what has not our country done
Since first our civil war begun?
When this took place we scarce had ships
To well protect our merchant trips,
And now we can right well compete
With any French or English fleet;
And too so strict is our blockade,

We've almost crushed the southern trade.
This is our fleet that guards our coast,
But of another fleet we boast,—
I mean our creek and river craft,
Which, smaller and of lighter draft,
Their streams ascending from the main
The Rebel States have open lain,
And with our different army corps
Have brought us to their very doors.
At first the rebel leaders laughed
At our strange harum scarum craft,
And said in words profane and fell
We could not penetrate their shell;
But soon they found that Yankee wit
Was, as in all things, up to it,
And showed them how the thing was done,
By victories like Donalson,
Which made the rebels all down South
Just laugh the other side the mouth.

I said that since this war arose
Wonders we'd wrought against our foes.
We've chased the foe from Tennessee;
(If not from all, we have at least
From all, save Tennessean East.)
Hold Mississippi to the sea,
With all its places, all its ports,
Its fortresses, stockades, and forts,
And all its tributary streams,
Thus cutting off the Rebel means;
While Banks now holds the Rio Grand
And has near stopt their contraband,
Forming a sort of river trench
To check the rebels, awe the French;
And with this all important post
The N'uces country and its coast.
We have acquired the bloody ground
E'en to its utmost mete and bound,
And to the present day and date
Large parts of each disloyal state;

And more than all, these same "mud sills"
Have paid at home their army bills;
No thanks to England or to France.
With them we'd like to break a lance;
Not now, but when we shall dispose
Of our rebellious Southern foes.
Still we're not particular,
At any time we'll give them war.
As for myself I'd shout joy
Throw up my hat, cry hip-a-hoy!
Aye let them come, this foreign scum,
"I'll bet my life we'd give 'em some"!

Now suppose we all should bustle
For the next campaign's great tussle,
With Gilmore thundering in the rear,
And Banks and Butler there and here,
With Rosencrans and Grant to Bragg
Who with their legions him will bag,
With General Meade to bear the blunt
Along the "Old Dominions" front,
And all our num'rous ships afloat,
With monitor and mortar boat,
Will hem the rebels round about
So that these fellows can't get out;
And as the Devils in the swine
Were rushed o'er steeps, deep in the brine,
We'll rush our Dev'lish rebel foe
Into the Gulf of Mexico.
But then we must be well supplied
With armies large on either side.
What though our country call for more,
And thousands stiffened lie in gore,
And though it millions, billions cost,
To well supply our conqu'ring host,—
All these are trifles light as air
To what we are, and what we were,
Aye what we must, what we will be
When we declare our people free!

A tribute now to those I'd pay,
Who did their country's call obey,
And from their homes and friends would hie
And for their country fight or die,—
To those who fought, to those who bled,
And also to the sacred dead!
Engraven on their country's heart
More lasting than the works of art,
Will be their deeds of glory done
Transmitted down from sire to son!
As when the olympic victor came
To his own place, renowned in name,
The wall his citizens took down
And him in triumph led through town.
So when our brave defenders come
Victors to their own native home,
To them that fought, to them that bled,
We'd weave fresh laurels for their head,
But more to them who lost their life
In this their country's trying strife.
We'd say in words of one inspired
Whose harp to lofty strains was lyred,—
Hail, all hail the patriot's grave,
"Valor's venerable bed;
Hail the memory of the brave,
And the memory of the dead;
Honored, thrice honored, be their name;
And their rich reward be this,
Immortality of fame;
Immortality of bliss!"

Salem Gazette, March 11, 1864.

OBITUARY.

In Topsfield, Mch. 20, of typhoid fever, Miss Rebecka P. Balch, only child of the late John C. Balch, 26 years. Seldom does the death of a young person produce such a general sadness throughout the community. Possessed of a beautiful countenance, delicate sensibilities, a most amiable disposition, and a remarkable conscientiousness, she passed

her childhood and youth free from any stain or reproach; respected by everybody who knew her, and most esteemed and beloved by them who knew her best. Her widowed and bereaved mother even with the abundant sympathy of friends and the supports of heavenly grace, must feel that but few mothers have such a daughter to lose.

Valuable Farm in Topsfield, at Auction.

Will be sold at Auction, on TUESDAY, the 29th day of March, current, at 1 o'clock, P. M., on the premises, about one hundred and eight acres of tillage, orchard, pasture, and meadow land, with the dwelling-house, barn, and other buildings thereon, all situated in Topsfield, one half mile from two churches, school, railroad depot, and two stores. The premises being the homestead of the late Ephraim Perkins, deceased, and for quantity of soils, and convenience of location, are not surpassed by any in the vicinity. A rare chance for any one wishing to purchase an uncommonly productive farm.

Persons wishing to examine the premises previous to the sale, will please call on JACOB P. TOWNE, Esq., or EPHRAIM PERKINS, near the premises.

Sale without reserve. Terms at sale.

S. D. HOOD, Auctioneer

Topsfield, March 22, 1864.

Salem Gazette, March 29, 1864.

Charles A. Holmes, Esq., of Topsfield, has been authorized to recruit, in connection with Captain Edward T. Pearce, for a company of Heavy Artillery, Mass. Vols., under General Orders No. 14, and will receive a lieutenant's commission when the company is full. It will be worth going a great way to see an officer of lawyer-poet-lieutenant's numerous inches in the army uniform. He has proved his patriotism to be genuine.

Salem Gazette, May 10, 1864.

(To be continued.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF REV. WILLIAM
BENTLEY RELATING TO TOPSFIELD (1787-1819).*

CONTRIBUTED BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

May 30, 1787. A disagreeable conference with that stupid Breck of Topsfield.

March 11, 1788. The proceedings of the Town of Topsfield are singular. Mr. Breck their minister, a native of Boston, & bred in the occupation of a Cooper, went late to his studies, & being destitute either of address or abilities, & actuated by a zeal, which is opposed to the passions of men, without any attractive qualities to the reason & understanding, has been long in broils. Just exceptions have not been taken to his morals legally considered, but the restlessness of the people induced them to give him a dismissal last January. The proceedings however being irregular, they consented to a mutual Council now setting, of which the following Gentlemen are members.

On the part of Mr. Breck, Mr. Dana & Mr. Frisbie of Ipswich, & Mr. Spring of Newbury Port. On the part of the people, Mr. Cutler of Ipswich, Mr. Parsons of Lynn & Mr. McKeen of Beverley.

Mr. Barnard of Salem chosen mutually. Some time since there was a Council upon the same difficulties, after which they subsided, but they have been increased, lately by a Mr. Cummings, a dismissed Clergymen from New Marborough & a Mr. Wilds, a sworn Attorney at Law, living in the Town.

* Rev. William Bentley was the pastor of the East Church, Salem, and his voluminous diary in four volumes has been published by the Essex Institute.

March 31, 1788. The Council at Topsfield resulted, after setting two weeks, unanimously. That tho' the charges against Mr Breck did prove nothing fully against his moral character & only the frailties incident to the most prudent men, yet as the disaffection was great & inveterate, it was recommended that he should ask a dismissal from his charge, provided that in eight weeks the Parish either paid or gave security to his entire satisfaction for the sum of three hundred pounds due upon his settlement & Salary, & fifty pounds in addition to said dues.

On Saturday, Aug. 1, [1789] visited Topsfield, one of the most pleasing towns in our neighborhood. After dinner Mr. Porter with Mrs. Orne went with me to a pond about two miles above the Meeting house on the road to Boxford. At a Mr. Hood's at the upper end of the pond we were entertained with berries, etc. The pond runs nearly with the road in a *supposed* north & south direction 1-2 a mile, and is nearly of equal width throughout, being about a 1-4 of a mile under, in both directions the given distances. The approach to the pond upon the west side is best, but the greater part is swampy. We travelled through the swamp, by which we were prepared without ceremony to wade in for the Pond Lillies. We returned for Tea to Mr. Porter's. The sides of the Pond are very shoal, which makes fishing with angling rods very difficult, & there was no boat at this time in the pond. Mr. Porter caught one Pickerel.

Sept. 22, 1790. At 1-2 past 6 in the morning I went from Salem for Haverhill to attend at a Review of the Regiment, & to visit Capt. Elkins who is superintending the building of a Vessel. I arrived at Mrs. Porter's, Topsfield, about nine miles from Salem & made my first stage. I then passed the meeting house in my left, & turned at the burying ground, 1-4 mile beyond. Keeping the most direct road, avoiding the road leading to Ipswich & Newbury on the right & to Andover, &c. on the left. I passed Topsfield pond on my right & went off from it at the upper end. . . .

April 1, 1891. Set out for Andover by way of Topsfield & Boxford. This road is judged the best for a Carriage tho' the distance be three miles greater in this road than

through Middleton. At Topsfield we passed the Meeting house on our left. The Meeting House on our right would have carried us through the old Parish, Rev'd Holyoke's, to Andover in less distance but worse road. We kept the left hand road, as the most direct, passing several Ponds, Pritchards on the right, 2 miles, Wood's on the left 5 miles, etc. The roads which go out on the right turn off much, . . .

April 2. From the Doctor's at 9 we set out for home. The Stones from Andover have a uniform appearance till we reach Topsfield, especially those used in the walks of the enclosures, being of the appearance of iron mould & as if lately dug from the earth, which upon the first sight of them we imagined. Going & coming we made our Stages at Baker's, Topsfield. I visited Mrs. Porter, a sensible woman, formerly an Allen. I saw my old classmates [Sylvanus] Wildes upon the road, & a Mr. Gould, M. A. We reached Salem at Dinner. At Topsfield hill may be seen the spires of Marblehead.

April 24, 1793. After dinner [at Andover] I returned through Boxford & Topsfield to Salem, which tho' of a distance much greater than on the roads by Reading or Middleton, amply compensated me by the goodness of the roads, the fine farms, the beautiful landscapes, ponds & rivers. At Topsfield I spent an hour in chearful chat in a wedding house* were the minister, lawyer, squire, &c. were assembled, the men in one room, & their wives in another, the men having the best room & all the attendance. For my amusement besides anecdotes, &c. I was furnished with several late publications of the ministers in this neighborhood which inform us of the state of this order which has so much influence on society.

Dec. 7, 1795 Left Salem to visit Andover, where my friend General Fiske is confined. Found the guide posts upon the road a great assistance among the cross roads. I took the route of Topsfield in preference to Middleton. . . . Found M^r Kimball† the celebrated Musician, at his father's. It is his purpose to establish himself in the Law in Maine.

*Polly Baker and Jacob Brown, married April 11th.

†Jacob Kimball of Topsfield, author of Rural Harmony, Essex Harmony, etc.

Dec. 9. Breakfasted with Col. Lovejoy, & took leave about eleven & returned by Topsfield to Salem. M^r Kimball gave me some encouragement that he would visit me, & spend one evening with my singers.

May 15, 1796. This Sunday upon account of the painting our Meeting House was shut, *for the first time*, since I have preached in it. I went up to the South Parish in Boxford, preached for M^r Holyoke who has suffered & is impaired by a paralytic stroke. His Son Samuel, who is eminent for his Musical publications, & his talents in the Instruction of Musical Companies was with us. . . . Upon my return, I remarked that from five towards eight o'clock from Boxford to Putnam's in Danvers, 8 miles, I did not see abroad or at the windows, one person of any age or of either sex.*

July 25, 1797. Left Salem early for Boxford, in company with Mrs. Porter. We reached Topsfield early enough for Breakfast, & were with Dr. Cleaveland. We then stopped at Rev'd [Asahel] Huntington's where we were kindly received. We then passed to Parson Holyoke's & found his Son & family well.

Nov. 21, 1797. [Doctor Bentley discusses music in Salem and vicinity and records] A few years since a Mr. [Jacob] Kimball & Mr. Johnson taught [music] in Marblehead.

Sept. 21, 1800. . . . A Candidate, Isaac Averill, æt. 34, belonging to Topsfield, & having a call to the ministry in Brookfield as successor to Dr. Fiske of Brookfield, died in Topsfield upon a visit to his friends, & when bearing Letters Missive to the Churches for his Ordination. He was to have been ordained on 1 October.

Sept. 16, 1801. After breakfast we left Haverhill for Salem, the distance being 22 miles but the guide posts very improperly divide the distance. A new Tavern has been opened on the road from Andover in Boxford, & Dr. Cleaveland in Topsfield has^{re} converted the mansion house of Porter into a very convenient tavern, below the meeting house in Topsfield. The approach to the Ipswich river is much improved, & the ascent to Topsfield Hill beyond it, going to Salem, is much more easy than formerly. We pursued our

*See Topsfield Hist. Colls. Vol. III, p. 18.

course & reached Salem at noon. The whole road from Haverhill to Salem appeared as good as it could be made & no obstructions did remain which art could remove.

Oct. 25, 1802. Mr. Isaac Perkins, who died last week, was born in Topsfield & lived in Boxford, upon the line toward Topsfield. His first wife was a Perkins & by her he had 9 children of whom four survive him. After her death he married a second wife, Mary Curtis of Marblehead, & soon after marriage moved to Salem, 16 years ago. His son Isaac was then in flourishing circumstances, & his son John on the Neck farm. He gave up his land to receive a maintenance from Isaac & had cause to repent it. His widow married first a Gardner, then a Kennedy, & this was her third husband. She has a Son who lost his arm in the war, at Moultonborough, N. H. & a daughter married at Cheshire, N. H.

May 5, 1804. . . . The Newbury Turnpike is in great forwardness. It is passable in the N. E. part of the County. The fate of the new Bridge directs the remainder of the road. The Hotel will be near Humphrey's pond, & provision is already made for the entertainment of travellers near that spot. What a contrast may be soon expected to the present inhospitable appearance of this uncultivated part of our Country. The Bridge over the Ipswich River at Topsfield is much praised. The true distance till the whole course is agreed on cannot be precisely ascertained. 29 miles is the distance named.

June 8, 1804. The Newbury Turnpike progresses, but at great expense. It is said it will be nigher from Salem to Newbury by Topsfield bridge, several miles.

Dec. 8, 1804. A Mr. G. Ward of this town has hired the public House at the New Turnpike in Topsfield.

May 31, 1805. We returned through Andover. . . . In Topsfield they were raising the new Turnpike bridge* over Ipswich river & for the first time I saw the elegant Inn which is finished for the accommodation of travellers on the Newbury Turnpike.

*Not the present stone bridge which was built in 1854, but a new wooden bridge.

July 23, 1805. By the kind invitation of Major Joseph Sprague, I took Chaise with him for Haverhill. We passed up the new road to New Mills, Danvers, leaving on our right the Danvers & Beverly Iron Works, upon Porter's river erected last year, & proceeded over Topsfield Hill. We were obliged to leave the Turnpike bridge which was unfinished & passed over Ipswich river upon the old Bridge & then crossed into the New Turnpike Hotel to go to Newbury Port on the Turnpike. We found the turnpike in a very unfinished state after much labour & over a very unequal country & the travelling was not without some apprehensions for our safety. . . . After repeated interviews with our friends at Haverhill, we left the town for Salem. When we reached Topsfield we were informed that one of the workmen on the Turnpike had been killed by the falling of earth & another had suffered an amputation of one leg.

July 15, 1806. By engagement I went for Mess. Joshua & Thomas Balch's, Topsfield, 8 miles from Salem. They have supplied our family with the produce of their farm. The house, which has no claim to notice but from its situation, is on the N. E. Bank of the Ipswich river & at the bend of the river so as most agreeably to exhibit the river in its course. The approach to the river is quick & free from any sediment. We fished with good success taking perch, shiners, breams, pout, &c. The cove or shallows at the bend of the river was rich with the pond lillies, which H[annah] C[rownshield] & H[annah] H[odges] took with great pleasure. The farm of the Two Brothers is about 100 acres. It was in good order, with a young orchard, good grass, & well fenced. After a frugal repast we visited the turnpike & rode 8 miles from the Toll House on Topsfield Hill to the Hotel at Lynnfield, kept by Mr. Lefevre. We had an opportunity of visiting Humphries pond which is now accommodated with a large flat bottomed boat. We found several parties at this place & one party of neighbours from Salem. We had every attention we could ask & after tea returned to Salem by the road from Newhall to the Butt brook in Old Boston road. The Hotel is well furnished with an Ice house. The main building is square & furnishes three good rooms

on the lower floor excepting the bar room. The conveniences of the Outhouses are numerous. I did not pass into the upper parts of the house. The distance from Salem & the retirement & goodness of the Road combine such advantages as appear adapted to give a preference to a Good House in this situation.

Nov. 20, 1806. [At the opening of the New Brick Meeting house in Danvers] Kimball from Topsfield was on the tenor.

Feb. 5, 1808. The Topsfield bill of Mortality for 1807, in this neighbourhood, out of 13 gives 8 above seventy years of age, fr[om] 70 to 80, 3, fr[om] 80 to 90, 4, & one at 90. An uncommon state of long life if it correspond to the common bills of successive years & is not a singular occurrence.

Oct. 15, 1808. . . . The Republicans had a Convention at Ipswich this month & above 70 persons were present. The Opposition have also had one at Topsfield. The results of both have been published. Mr. Pickering, tho' not a member, was at Topsfield on the occasion & very busy. . . . Mr. G[ray] asked one of the rich merchants of the town how he could sign the proceedings at Topsfield when he knew they contained falsehoods.

Feb. 21, 1809. The Convention of Topsfield by the friends of the General Government was numerous. Three hundred attended & they promise the Gov. the aid of 5 thousand, if needed. They are not halfway folks.

July 24, 1809. This day with H. C[rownshield] & H. H[odges] I visited Capt. Elkins at Wenham, Mr. Hood, & dined at Mr. D[avid] Balch at Topsfield. Here we amused ourselves several hours. We then passed on the turnpike to Lynnfield Hotel, now kept by Mr. Lewis. We found nobody travelling upon it. Mr. L. complains of the utter impossibility of maintaining a good house in that place. The Toll house is removed from Topsfield hill to the meeting of the N[ewbury] P[ort] & the Andover Turnpike about 2 1-2 miles beyond Lynnfield Hotel towards Newburyport. We found the Ipswich river very full, having quite overflowed its banks. We could obtain comparatively few of the *Nymphaea*, but we found in the Garden the *Guaiaecum Astrum*, Wood of life, or Life of Man. We returned rich in wild flowers.

July 28, 1809. [Doctor Bentley visits Cambridge going by way of the Newburyport turnpike from Topsfield Hotel to Malden bridge.] In Topsfield, on S. side of Ipswich river, Deacon Bixby has a barn 80 feet by 40 which he fills from his own farm. This is in better stile than in Cambridge.

June 21, 1810. . . . The present road from Ipswich to Topsfield goes the greater part of a mile southerly from Linebrook, or fire town parish, in which Mr. [George] Leslie formerly & now Mr. Gilbert T. Williams is minister. The brook on the division gave the first name, the woods, the best part of it, gave the vulgar name by which it is yet known.

Oct. 30, 1811. After many purposes & disappointments, I left Salem with my H. C[rownshield] to see Line Brook vulg[arly known as] Firetown, a section of Ipswich, Topsfield, & Rowley at the acute angle in which they meet. Never did I find so many opinions about the distance & the course of any place. I took my own way & went to Topsfield meeting house. There at a tavern I found an intelligent woman who had lived in the neighbourhood. She directed me to proceed on the Haverhill road, leaving the road to Ipswich on my right hand, till I had passed two miles, then to take the right hand, & about half a mile from the meeting house, or four miles from Topsfield Meeting, I turned to the left & came to Line Brook Meeting House. I visited the Minister whose house is near the Meeting house upon rising ground west of it. Upon my return through Ipswich, as the road near the Meeting House went to Rowley, I returned the half mile into the former road from which I had turned & continued towards Ipswich & in about a mile I crossed Newbury turnpike at a Tavern kept by one Foster* in Line Brook, about three & an half miles from Topsfield hotel, so that the best road from Salem is by Topsfield Hotel to Fos-

*Foster by trade was a blacksmith, by business a landlord. His sign hanging near the tavern door read as follows:

"I shoe the horse, I shoe the ox;
I carry the nails in my box
I make the nail, I set the shoe,
And entertain some strangers, too."

ter's tavern or the cross road at that place. We continued on towards Ipswich, Line Brook extending nearly two miles beyond the turnpike towards Ipswich, taking a left hand as we were leaving Line Brook & then passing over the Sands we entered Ipswich near the bury[ing] ground above the Old Meeting House & proceeded into Ipswich upon the Newbury lower road till we reached Treadwell's tavern on the Hill, at bell ringing, half past twelve & at Treadwell's we dined.

The general appearance of Line Brook is poor but more so at the point towards Topsfield & Boxford at which we entered. We saw only one orchard & that an old one, from Topsfield till we reached the Meeting House. Most of the lands were unenclosed & barren & the swamps were of no use being filled with small pines, small birch & alders with hummocks. Away from the road some farms on favorite spots made a little better appearance. As we approached the Turnpike some farms were in better condition but we soon passed to the moving sands which lay between Ipswich & this parish. It is generally considered as the poorest division of Essex. As it is the last place I have visited, it is the most destitute of the means of enriching a farmer. And if the tastes of the people can be guessed by the rhymes on Foster's sign, their minds are of higher improvements than their barren country. I found the Minister [Gilbert T. Williams] to be a Son of Revd. Simon Williams of Windham, a part of Londonderry in New Hampshire. Joseph McKean D. D. who was settled at Beverly, & afterwards first President of Bowdoin College, told me that his Father was his Preceptor but with all the roughness of a Presbyterian in Scotland, of which he gave me some very powerful anecdotes. Revd. Jacob Herrick of Durham, Maine, gave me the history of his interment in the Irish way which indicated into what state of improvement he had brought his flock in the wilderness. From the Son, who is named after the celebrated Gilbert Tennent, so well known as the Hero in talents in the Days of Whitefield in New England, 1742, I had the following information by his records which he produced. Line Brook had not a separate house of worship till the present house was erected in 1742 & the pulpit was finished

in 1743. They had not formed a Church till 1749 at the time of the ordination of the well known George Leslie. In this covenant were engaged George Leslie the Pastor, & the following Brethren bearing the family names of Metcalf, Davis, Hibbert, Pike, Burpee, Abbot, Tenney, Perley, Smith, Fiske (John), Chaplain, Jewett. Revd. G. Leslie married a d. of Burpee. Leslie continued in his charge till 1779, thirty years & then from complaints of poverty & want of adequate support he had a dismissal & recommendation with a good character to Washington in New Hampshire, where he was installed in 1780, & where he continued till he died. His manners were singular but Mr. Thayer the Catholic convert, told me his mind was powerful.

The place to which Mr. Leslie removed is back of Walpole & Charleston on Connecticut river, & on the third range of towns. Dr. Belnap had his installation in 1779, but he left Line Brook in that year & his wife's dismissal is in 1780. Formerly Campdon. After Mr. Leslie left, Revd. Joseph Mottey, who settled at Lynnfield in 1783, had an invitation to settle but did not accept & in 1783 Mr. Joshua Spaulding had an invitation but he came & settled at the Tabernacle Church in Salem in 1786 & has since removed to the Branch Church after a separation in 1802. Revd. Gilbert Tennent Williams was ordained in Line Brook on 5 Aug. 1789. He has a wife & four sons & one amiable daughter. He has a stipulated salary of 75 pounds or 250 dollars & the rest he supplies with his industry by the aid of a rigid economy. According to Dr. Belnap, Simon Williams the Father, settled at Windham, New Hampshire, in 1766. Dr. B. obtained no account of the population of the parish in which he was settled. The son settled in Windham, 23 years after in Line brook. It probably was during his tarry in the State or Colony of New Yersey that he contracted his friendship for G[ilbert] T[ennent] after whom he named his son, as this same G. T. had at that time great influence in that quarter, as the publications in that quarter will prove. Among the names of the first members of the Linebrook Church I found Burpe as the only one yet unknown to me. But upon my return to Salem Capt. B. Ward, one of the Assessors, told me that a tradesman of that name had been in Salem for

several years & had been reported on their list by that name working in Court street. It proves however that Burpe is the Christian name of one Ames in Salem. He tells me that his father belonged to Rowley & his Grandmother's name was Burpe & that he bore his father's name Burpe Ames.

April 25, 1813. . . . Last Thursday night died Revd. Asahel Huntington, æt. 53, Pastor of the church at Topsfield. He was as well as usual on the Saturday proceeding. Appeared to have as he called it a cold which terminated in fever & death. I have not had the progress or character of his disease. When I first knew Topsfield, the Pastor was John Emerson, Revd., in 1774. He died in 1776 & in 1779 was succeeded by Daniel Breck of Boston, Brother to the celebrated merchant of Boston of that name & afterwards of New York. Mr. Emerson had amassed a great landed estate which his children have understood to kept & while he was not distinguished in his profession, enjoyed an independence which kept him from contempt. Mr. Breck had great zeal, but less knowledge of men, & without talents or address had not so happy a course. Dissentation of the most trifling nature soon begun, & ended in a separation in 1788. It became doubtful whether another election would soon take place, but a choice & settlement was made in 1790, of the lately deceased pastor. He was from Connecticut. Of very sedate manners, constant reserve, but of a mild & not sullen temper & he has preserved a wonderful tranquility ever since till his death. He has a family of which I know nothing excepting I was lately in the company of one of his daughters at James Stearns who married a grand-daughter of the late Rev. John Emerson & a descendant of the old Gov. Bradstreet, whose lands in Topsfield are held by his family, who informs an attachment to Rev. Mr. H. is his real hospitality to an unknown Gentleman from Conn. bearing my name, & being a preacher, who was taken sick at his house. He did all the duties of a father & benefactor. Our Lodge made a payment of his account, but it was far short of an equivalent for his services. Mr. Bentley originally from the R. Island branch of our family, was educated by an Uncle

then dead, & had no resources but in his virtues & his profession. The more full history of Topsfield & of the deceased I must obtain from other persons.

May 23, 1813. Sunday. Note. James W. Stearns & wife, death of her Grandfather at Topsfield, Thomas Emerson, æt. 75. One of the richest land holders, & farmers in Essex. He was a son of the Revd. John Emerson who died in 1775, having been nearly half a Century in the ministry. He probably succeeded Mr. Capen, before whom were Mr. Hobert & Gilbert. The great wealth of Thomas Emerson was proverbial, & he was well known by letting Cows for the season to the Inhabitants of Salem. A Sermon was delivered at his funeral by Revd. Mr. Eaton of Boxford. His posterity are rich & respected & so was the Grandfather, excepting the jealousy of his riches. The Selectmen expressed to the family a wish that a sermon might be preached at his funeral.

May 15, 1814. . . . Mr. Hubbard's son, late Minister of Newbury Newtown, is preaching at Topsfield. He possesses some of the disquiet spirit of his father. Topsfield is the last place I should assign to him.

Sept. 27, 1814. . . . This day by invitation I went to Topsfield with Mr. James Stearns, whose wife was a daughter of the 40 farm Emerson, g. son of John Emerson, a former pastor of Topsfield who died in 1774. The intention was to visit the Lands of the last Old Charter Governour Simon Bradstreet, one of whose descendants was the wife of Mr. Emerson, & upon whose lands she was born. We dined at Mr. Emerson's who was absent but with his family handsomely. I found myself on the spot which I first visited in 1773, on which Revd. John Emerson lived, & part of his house was united to the large house of Mr. Emerson, his son, in which the Aged Pastor lived, part of which projected had been in the past year taken away. It is N. E. from the Meeting house upon the plain. Above it is the house of the minister before Mr. Emerson as you ascend the hill going eastward, the house of the Revd. Mr. Capen. It is said each of them were in the ministry above 40 years. This house of Mr. Capen is nearly in its primitive state & is the place to receive the families of the men who labour on the lands around, Mr. Emerson keeping 600 acres in cultivation

& use around him. Mr. Capen's house is of two stories with jutting second stories & a very sharp & high roof. The beams & joice are naked within but the floor timbers are less than usual at that time of building. The study & lodging room of Mr. Emerson, left at the building of the New House, are now taken away, but the remains within the line of the new House discover the primitive style of building. In going from the Meeting House we passed to the neighbourhood of the Newbury turnpike Hotel & pursued upon the Turnpike our route for a small distance to what is called the dry Bridge to distinguish it from the bridge over the river not a mile below. We passed by this passage upon a country road under the Turnpike road, & came to the house of Mr. Sylvanus Wildes, who was of the same class with me at Cambridge & graduated in 1777. He prepared himself for the bar & took the oaths, but has not entered into practice. He is a long talker & a friend of singular opinions, but has been much confined by the nervous affection of his wife. He was engaged with his flax, & with little change from time. Before his door he had a little inclosure of Quince trees, which attracted more notice as the trees were laden with fruit, while a general want of fruit is the complaint of the season. These fruits are usually preserved in sugar. In the want of sugar, cut and dried. After a few words about his family & children around him, we left his small farm & continued on the country road about a mile, & then leaving it turned to the left upon the farm road to the Bradstreet lands. The whole of these were thought to include about 300 acres, & we found upon the height of land the house of Mr. Samuel Bradstreet, the Brother of Mrs. Emerson who accompanied us. The situation was delightful, but this elevation had been chosen by the heirs, & not by the Patriarch who first came into possession. I found the cellar of his house, like that of Gov. Endicott, on the acclivity of the hill so that the present mansion house is on the top of the hill northwest of the Old Mansion which was sheltered by the hill & had before it a small pond which has not yet quite disappeared. Near the Cellar we found a very ancient pear tree, which had stood above one hundred years, tho' probably wanting fifty years of the Age of the Endicott. It had been grafted four times

with four different kind of fruit. The native fruit was still on it & this was a small, round & hard pear for winter of which I took a specimen. We then passed to the river which in a very winding course passes south of the house at the distance of one quarter of a mile & about equal distance from the location of both mansions. We visited the banks of the river which had fallen, but has been uncommonly swollen by the rains so that the hay of the meadows will probably be lost this season. This river at this place is the boundary line between Topsfield and Hamilton formerly, & till lately part of Ipswich, from which settlement the river is named as the place at which it empties. On the opposite side while on the banks of the river the view beyond the meadows is terminated by a swamp three miles in length & about one mile in width north & south, over which the land holders pass when frozen in winter to Wenham. Of the original Bradstreet possession about 70 acres were meadow exclusive of the woodlands near the river called Islands. The wood lands we know daily decrease & change much from the first appearance of the country. As we proceeded by the pasture bridle road towards the top of the hill on which the house stood, we saw on the S.W. many turf houses which had been erected formerly & were now again occupied in preparing that convenient article of fuel on the other side of the river. At the house we had an extensive prospect. A little south of east at a few miles distance appeared Hamilton Meeting House. About south was to be seen over the swamp Wenham Meeting House & west of south the Meeting House of upper Beverly. The high lands of Danvers & Topsfield were on the west, till the eye passed to Topsfield on the N. W. On the eastern quarter were the high lands of Topsfield & Hamilton called Third Hill, Towne's, &c. near which runs the line of Hamilton. The Swamp lays in Hamilton & Wenham. As the family were not prepared for the visit I could only leave enquiries in good hopes of seeing the deeds, papers, & ancient books & monuments still to be found among them. On the south east was a house occupied by another branch of the family & in their lots was the site of the old mansion on the south eastern side of the hill then a corn field. Upon our return we took the County road

that was on our right from the dry bridge & turning to the left continued till we reached the turnpike & then where we entered it near the hotel, we passed to our former place of visiting & taking tea, in the evening returned by the usual road to Salem.

Dec. 13, 1814. One curious occurrence of the past week deserves notice. Capt. Thomas Emerson, son of a Minister in Topsfield, a rich farmer in Danvers, & Brother to the richest landholder of the same name in the state, living in Topsfield, died evidently in a state of intoxication. He was an excellent Agricultural & had amassed a great interest. He purchased the farm of the eminent Merchant Richard Derby senior, who died in 1783, & exhibited the best cultivated Cornfield & the largest I had seen in Essex. I visited last season & saw land rendered fruitful, which had been abandoned to Wood waxen. The characteristic error of the man was intemperance of the grossest kind. Not associated with any corrupt habits but the mere love of intoxication. He returned to his family in his usual manner, & by a good wife was led to his bed, & there lodged till he should recover. After a few hours his wife entered his bed chamber to assist him to undress, & found him expiring, & he soon died. The funeral ceremonies proceeded as usual & the body was brought to the grave. Scruples then arose about interment. The body was brought back to the house. The tale I have from the man who watched two nights with the body after its return. No life came & the body was deposited in the grave. The fear was strengthened by the body appearing to undergo no change during this time, & this state of the body was attributed to the excess of spirituous liquors.

Dec. 25, 1814. Of the meeting at Topsfield to associate to urge the letter of a Jewish Sabbath & to prohibit all passing from town to town on the Sunday we hear little. A beautiful extract from Jeremy Taylor was published in the Salem Gazette to prevent this town from being caught in the snare. I read the Law as desired & begged my tything man, who is my Sexton, to see that no children or other persons assembled around the Meeting House in time of service with a wish to interrupt no person who should pass peaceably along.

Jan. 1, 1815. Sunday. Note. James Stearns & wife, a Son baptised in public. The Topsfield affair was no jest. The account has not been published in Salem but elsewhere. It says a Convention of 43 members from 13 towns was held 21 Dec. John Heard, Esq. of Ipswich was chosen Moderator & Revd. S. Worcester of Salem head of a Committee called Standing, till last Wednesday of April next. The first resolution is in app. of Sabbath Law, second of the zeal of the occasion, 3d to influence choice of Tything men, 4 recommending meetings to give them support, 5 election of Tything men, 6 recomm. perseverance. Revd. Mr. Edwards of Andover chosen to meet Middlesex convention in this month. Thus under the garb of religion another assoction is formed for poltical purposes. The late publication in the Salem Gazette of a paragraph from Jer. Taylor brought some remarks which tended to set aside the judgment of Jer. Taylor & to escape from the argument. An answer confirming from Foster the sentiment & proving the inaccuracy of the charge, brought a second reply more weak than the first. The Orthodox here are not the Nortons & Corbets of the first generation, but impudent fellows who put scandal for argument. The public mind is so well guarded that it is presumed the scheme will not be adopted in Essex as not one clergyman of reputation, as I reckon, did appear at the Convention. I wish that the argument had been put upon its proper basis that the Christian day of worship is not of ecclesiastical or of divine right, but of legal right derived from precedent, & to be governed by the sense & benefit of the Community in which it may be adopted.

Jan. 21, 1816. . . . Our Sabbath or Sunday folks are determined to try again at Topsfield. The present object is to prepare to execute the laws which when obsolete should be repealed & not left to be employed by fanatics for the vexation of quiet citizens.

Feb. 14, 1816. . . . Topsfield Hotel Sunday Convention recommended to the towns of Essex to apply to the Gen. Court relative to Sunday Laws. Worcester & Parish appeared at their head unaccompanied with any other person of good or ill name or influence. We have heard of no such pet. in this County. Some are notified as received in the day Bill

of the Court & the Law has been committed. At the end of the session we shall see what is done. The matter of Holy time is not yet settled, no not even at Newbury port, by superstition upon the throne of its glory.

Apr. 12, 1817. . . . Upon my return I met John Prince, Esqr, & with him I rode to his Brother in Law's Dudley Bradstreet, who married John P's sister, second wife, having 11 children. He has a farm on the edge of Danvers, towards Topsfield, of 175 acres & still holds part of the old Bradstreet farm in Topsfield belonging to the Gov. near the Ipswich river. We were kindly received & returned the 7 miles to Salem & were in town at 7 o'clock.

Feb. 6, 1818. . . . An invitation is given to the friends of Agriculture in Essex, to meet at Topsfield on 16 instant to form an Agricultural Society for the County of Essex in aid of the Mass. Agricultural Society.

May 4, 1819. William Perkins was one who had liberty to settle at Ipswich before April, 1633 & was one of the 12 who went with John Winthrop to Ipswich of that year. There is a tradition that he officiated at Topsfield, before it had an ordained minister, as a teaching elder & performed as a minister. Gilbert was ordained at Topsfield, 9 Nov. 1663 or thirty years after W. P. came. Thomas Perkins, late merchant of Salem, it is said has made his will granting a large sum to the Town of Salem, which he holds by a Debt of the Town. He lives [in Topsfield] on the road just on the descent towards Ipswich river passing from Danvers,

Oct. 5, 1819. [Doctor Bentley drives to Lynnfield]. We were hospitably received & after dinner left for Ipswich. I could find no person who had passed in this direction. I passed on the North Reading road & then went down by Procter's to the Turnpike, took coffee at Topsfield hotel & after passing the second mile stone about one mile & a quarter crossed to Ipswich & found a most pleasant ride upon the northern bank of the river into Ipswich making the whole distance from home 26 miles. . . . A town clerk at Topsfield tells me of a W. Perkins as their first minister but not ordained. Passing the meadows at Ipswich on my right was Stone's meadow & on my left Reedy meadow, in which the flags were cut for use. After leaving the turnpike at Topsfield for Ipswich pass Hum river, then another stream.

Oct. 17, 1819. . . . Topsfield remains vacant since Huntington's death and is not near to a settlement. The Perkins' insist that W. Perkins was their first minister in their early history, tho they have no pretence that he was ordained.

REV. DAVID PEABODY.

1805-1839.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES AND CORRESPONDENCE.

David Peabody,* the youngest son of John and Lydia (Balch) Peabody, was born at Topsfield, Mass., April 16, 1805. He was employed more or less upon his father's farm till he was fifteen or sixteen years of age; but as his physical constitution was thought to be not well suited to agricultural life, and as his early tastes were more than ordinarily intellectual, and he had a strong desire for a collegiate education, his father consented to gratify him; and, in the spring of 1821, he commenced the study of Latin at Dummer Academy, Byfield. The same year his thoughts were earnestly directed to the great subject of his own salvation, though he did not feel so much confidence in the genuineness of his religious exercises as to make a public profession of his faith until three years afterwards. In 1824, he united with the Congregational Church in his native place, and in the autumn of the same year joined the Freshman class in Dartmouth College.

*This biographical sketch written by Rev. Daniel L. Furber, D. D., is taken from Sprague's "Annals of the American Pulpit."

By severe labor during his collegiate course, he overtasked his naturally feeble constitution, and thus prepared the way for much future debility and suffering. He was graduated in 1828, on which occasion he delivered the valedictory oration.

After spending a few weeks in recruiting his health at his father's, he became, for a short time, assistant editor of the "New Hampshire Observer," at Portsmouth, but before the close of 1828 he entered the Theological Seminary at Andover. In the spring of 1829, he accepted an invitation to take charge of a Young Ladies' Select School at Portsmouth; but in the autumn of 1830 his declining health obliged him to relinquish it, and to seek a Southern residence. He went to Prince Edward County, Virginia, and secured a situation as teacher in an excellent family,—that of Dr. Morton, and at the same time entered the Union Theological Seminary, of which the Rev. John H. Rice was the founder and principal professor. He remained in the family of Dr. Morton till he had completed the prescribed course of study, and was licensed to preach by the West Hanover Presbytery in April, 1831; after which he supplied the church at Scottsville for six months. So acceptable were his services, that the congregation would gladly have retained him as their pastor; but, as he preferred a Northern residence, he declined all overtures for a settlement, and returned to New England, with his health much improved, in 1832. In November of the same year he was ordained pastor of the First Church in Lynn, Mass. In September, 1834, he was married to Maria, daughter of Lincoln Brigham, then of Cambridge, but formerly of Southborough, Mass. In January, 1835, he was attacked with a severe hemorrhage, which greatly reduced his strength, and obliged him for a season to intermit his labors. Finding the climate unfavorable, he reluctantly came to the determination to resign his pastoral charge, with a view of seeking an inland home, when his health should be sufficiently recruited to justify him in resuming the stated duties of the ministry.

Accordingly, in the spring of 1835, he was dismissed, after which he spent some time in traveling for the benefit of

his health, at the same time acting as an agent for the Massachusetts Sabbath School Society. His health now rapidly improved, and on the 15th of July succeeding his dismissal, he was installed as pastor of the Calvinist Church in Worcester.

The change of climate seemed, for a time, highly beneficial, and had begun to induce the hope that his health might become fully established; but, in the winter of 1835-36, he was prostrated by another attack of hemorrhage, which again clouded his prospects of ministerial usefulness. In the spring of 1836, his health had so far improved that he resumed his ministerial labors and continued them through the summer; but in September, his symptoms again became more unfavorable, and he determined, in accordance with medical advice, to try the effect of a sea voyage and a winter in the South. Accordingly, he sailed in November for New Orleans; and, on arriving there decided on going to St. Francisville, a village on the Mississippi. Here he remained during the winter, preaching to both the white and colored population, as his strength would allow. In the spring, he returned to his pastoral charge, with his health considerably invigorated. He labored pretty constantly, though not without much debility, until the succeeding spring (1838), when he found it necessary again to desist from his labors, and take a season of rest. In company with a friend, he journeyed through a part of Vermont and New Hampshire, and on reaching Hanover, the day after Commencement, was surprised to learn that he had been appointed professor of Rhetoric in Dartmouth College. Conscious of his inability to meet any longer the claims of a pastoral charge, and hoping that his health might be adequate to the lighter duties of a professorship, he could not doubt that the indications of Providence were in favor of his accepting the appointment. He did accept it, and shortly after resigned his charge at Worcester, amidst many expressions of affection and regret on the part of his people, and, in October following, entered on the duties of his professorship.

The change of labor proved highly beneficial, and during the winter of 1838-39, he enjoyed a degree of health which

he had not known for many previous years. In March, he was so much encouraged in respect to himself that he remarked to a friend that he thought God would indulge the cherished wish of his heart and permit him again to labor as a minister. But another cloud quickly appeared in his horizon which proved ominous of the destruction of all his earthly hopes. In April following, he suffered from an attack of pleurisy, which was followed by lung fever; and, though he so far recovered as to be able to attend to his college duties till the September following, it became manifest to all that his disease was, on the whole, advancing towards a fatal termination. He died at the age of thirty-four years and six months, on the 17th of October, 1839. His last days were rendered eminently tranquil by the blessed hopes and consolations of the gospel. His funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Lord, President of Dartmouth College, and was published. He left no children.

Mr. Peabody's published works are a brief "Memoir of Horace Bassett Morse," 1830; a Discourse on "The Conduct of Men Considered in Contrast with the Law of God," 1836; and a "Sermon on the Sin of Covetousness, Considered in Respect to Intemperance, Indian Oppression, Slavery," etc., 1838; "Patriarch of Hebron, or the History of Abraham" (posthumus), 1841."

FROM THE REV. SAMUEL G. BROWN, D. D.

Dartmouth College, July 25, 1856.

My Dear Sir: It gives me great pleasure to send you my impressions of Professor Peabody, though others could write with more authority. I knew him in college, where he was my senior. He belonged to a class of great excellence, and was honorably distinguished throughout his college course for general scholarship, diligence, fidelity, and great weight of personal influence, in favor of all things "excellent and of good report." His character was mature and his mind already well disciplined when he entered the class, and education had perhaps less to accomplish for him in the matter

of elegant culture than for almost any one of his associates. Hence there was not the same conspicuous progress in him as in some others. Yet at the time of graduation he stood among the first, as is indicated by the fact that he was the orator of one of the literary societies, and was selected by the Faculty to deliver the valedictory oration at Commencement. In every department of study he was a good scholar,—in the classical, moral, and rhetorical departments, pre-eminent. As a preacher, he was distinguished for a certain fullness and harmony of style, justness in the exposition of doctrine, and weight of exhortation. He was prudent without being timid, and zealous without being rash; eminently practical, though possessing a love of ideal beauty, and a cultivated and sensitive taste, and as far removed from formalism on the one side as from fanaticism on the other. Dignified and courteous in manner, he was highly respected by all his acquaintances, and while a pastor, greatly esteemed and beloved by his people. His fine natural qualities were marred by few blemishes, and his religious character was steadily and constantly developed year by year. Grave, sincere, earnest, he went about his labors as one mindful of his responsibility, and as seen under his "great Task-master's eye." Indeed his anxieties outran his strength, and he was obliged to leave undone much that was dearest to his hopes. The disease to which he finally yielded had more than once "weakened his strength in the way" before he was finally prostrated by it. The consequent uncertainty of life had perhaps imparted to him more than usual seriousness, and a deep solicitude to work while the day lasted. He performed the duties of a professor in college but a single year, and that with some interruptions. No better account of the general impression of his life on those who knew him best can be given than in the language of a sermon preached at his funeral by the Rev. Dr. Lord.

"What his private papers show him to have felt in the presence of his God was made evident, also, in his social and official intercourse. Intelligent, grave, dignified; conscientious in all his relations, from the student upwards to the teacher, the pastor, the professor; nothing empty as a scholar, nothing unsettled or inconsistent as a divine, noth-

ing vague or groundless as an instructor; sincere, generous, honorable, devout; keenly sensitive in respect to the proprieties and charities of life; warm in his affections, strong in his attachments, stern in his integrity; above the arts of policy, the jealousies of competition, the subserviency of party spirit, and simply intent upon serving God, in his own house, and in all his official ministrations, he was one of the few who are qualified to be models for the young, ornaments to general society, and pillars in the church of God."

Hoping, dear sir, that this hasty and imperfect sketch may be of some trifling service in commemorating a good man, who deserves something much better,

I am very truly your obedient friend and servant,
S. G. BROWN.

FROM THE REV. JOHN NELSON, D. D.

Leicester, July 23, 1856.

My dear Sir: My personal acquaintance with the Rev. Mr. Peabody was limited to the period during which he was the pastor of the Central Church, in Worcester. While he held that office, I had, I may say, an intimate,—certainly a most happy acquaintance with him. I often saw him in his own house, and often received him as a welcome guest in mine. I often met him in the association to which we both belonged and in ecclesiastical councils.

I remember him as having a rather a tall and commanding figure, and a benign countenance, beaming with intelligence, especially when engaged in conversation. This appearance, however, was modified by constant illness. No one could be with him without receiving the impression that he was a scholar, as well as a deep and accurate thinker.

The few sermons which I heard him read, or deliver from the pulpit, were of a high order, distinguished for both accuracy of style and power of thought. They were clear, methodical, and highly eloquent. It was my own impression, and I know it was the impression of some of his most distinguished hearers, that he was among the best preachers of his

time. In ecclesiastical councils he was shrewd, discerning, and wise. As a friend, he was always reliable. His moral character was not only high, but well balanced, and marred by no inconsistencies.

It is presumed that no one will dissent from the statement that, during the few years he was in Worcester, by his intelligence, his manly virtues, his kindness of heart, his active labors for the advancement of Christ's kingdom, and his ability as well as faithfulness as a preacher, he greatly commended himself, not only to the people of his immediate charge, but to the whole community in which he labored.

Affectionately yours,

JOHN NELSON.

Hanover, Sept. 13th, 1824.

Ever dear parents—

I sat down last saturday night soon after my arrival in this place, in order to write you a letter, and did cover three pages with a sort of narrative of my journey &c; but as I have more now to write in addition to what I then wrote, than I can get on the remainder of that sheet, I take a new one, and will give you some account of my journey in fewer words, & tell you of my success since.—As to the journey, expence, &c=after leaving Topsfield Hotel, we rode on slowly through N. Rowley, (the rout of Manning's stage,) where at Bradstreet's tavern I paid my fare to Haverhill which was 50 cts. double what I expected. Saw Esq. Greenough at Kimball's tavern in Bradford, who informed me that Jeremiah would not go till Monday—today; probably because there would be 3 day's board more to pay for if he had gone friday—Stopped in Haverhill at half past 10, went and had my watch-chain mended which took about 10 minutes and cost 12½ cts; bought in the mean time a little Sal-Aeratus and some other small articles, paid fare and set out for Concord at 11 in company with 2 ladies, 1 very old gentleman and 6 rather young men, one of whom was a Mr. Chadwick, member of Dartmouth College, and cousin to Jeremiah Greenough. He belongs to Bradford West Parish;

I had never seen him before, but we soon got acquainted, and he was very kind & attentive all the way, & has been in assisting me here. Another of our passengers was a sort of wag rather accomplished and extremely witty, & he kept us laughing half way to Concord. All along through Atkinson and Hampsted the orchards, which are numerous there, were bending almost ready to break with fruit. The land above these towns is rough, craggy and covered considerably with wood. At about 3 in the afternoon, having eaten nothing since leaving home but a little gingerbread and 2 apples in Haverhill, I with nearly all the company except the old man who had left the stage, took dinner in a corner of Candia at Andersons' I think. The dinner was excellent except the cider which was, we judged, about 21 years old, at least old enough to be free, and the water, which was ten times worse. Kept on moderately as the roads were bad, having been washed and gullied in the late rains, changed horses once, came in sight of Concord about sunset, crossed the ferry some ways beyond the remains of the bridge, which was principally destroyed and carried off in last Spring's freshet, and found myself landed with Mr. Chadwick at Hutchins's tavern at about 7 in the evening. The evening being fine and the moon shining brightly, we walked a little around the village, viewed the State House, a beautiful edifice of stone, not so large as Boston State House but far more elegant, returned, concluded to take no supper, and having paid for our night's lodging, retired at 9, occupying one chamber, but 2 beds. Slept soundly till nearly 4 Saturday morning, when we both waked, ourselves, and, knowing we were to start at 4, and a light being brought into our chamber by the good folks of the house, we arose; but in dressing I had a faint turn which continued some time and alarmed me not a little. It was probably occasioned by my eating so scantily the day before, and in connection with that, rising so early. However it soon went off after walking out and taking the stage, we started without any refreshment at all at 15 minutes past 4, the morning being cloudy, foggy, and chilly, and rather giving signs of a snow storm. Rode on, passed Boscawen—(pronounced Bosquine)—meeting house about sunrise. Here are many excellent farms and

fine, fruit-bending orchards. Breakfasted at Salisbury (16 miles from Concord,) at 7, on broiled beef-steak, roasted chicken, warm cakes, butter, cheese, cider and coffee. Sat and warmed ourselves at a blazing stove, which we felt quite reluctant to change for a cold, open stage. However—paid our fare to Hanover, and started with a new set of horses at half past 7. Proceeded slowly through woods and bogs a considerable distance, now and then finding a house, which seemed to have strayed away from the civilized world, built upon, and surrounded by scarce anything but rocks. Stopped at Enfield, at noon, the weather having grown warmer and brighter, the driver dined, (but we took nothing,) changed our old pacing horses for a set of beautiful red ones, which looked as if they were going to College, and started off for Hanover in earnest. In Enfield which is generally rich & handsome as to its land, is a Shaker village, neat and regular as a piece of painting, situated on the south side of a beautiful pond 5 miles long, and overhung on the north side by a thick, heavy wood. Passed, after leaving this village, or rather these villages, for there are three divisions, through 2 or 3 dark, woody, uncomfortable looking towns, & found ourselves landed safe and sound in the midst of Hanover village, in front of the College, at half past 3 in the afternoon. Distance from Haverhill to Concord 40 miles; from Concord to Hanover, 54 miles. There were some little expenses which we bore amongst us, which, as my part, stating largely, I shall call 25 cts. After arriving, friend Chadwick took me to his room where I stopped a few minutes, then went in search of a boarding house. The first direct application I made was at Mrs. Barton's who takes boarders but has no rooms to spare. After I had made known my business & circumstances, as I was without a bed, she told me her terms which are 9 and 9 pence per week for boarding and washing, and told me she would accommodate me with a room, bed, and whatever I wanted for one week at that price, but could not longer. I was going to look farther, but she pressed me so hard, engaged without more inquiry, and now I like her so well that I shall continue with her this term. She resembles widow Peabody of Salem very much, is extremely kind and obliging, and seems, in every respect,

a mother. She has now 5 boarders besides myself, and expects as many more. Her table is excellent, and her house is considered one of the best, though by no means the highest, for boarding in the village;—but few if any board lower of any respectability. I have engaged a chamber very pleasant and convenient in a house directly opposite Mrs. Barton's at 16 dollars the year. Perhaps you may think it a great price, but I can find no chamber which will answer for two tenants rented much if any less, except the chambers in a large brick building near by, which are very noisy, and the College chambers which are full of vermin, & cold and shattered besides. As I have engaged a chamber you will of course conclude that I have been admitted a member of College. I was examined this morning pretty closely by professors Shurtleff and Adams and got through the furnace without consuming utterly. I have spent the rest of the day in furnishing my room. Mr. Roby the man of whom I hired the chamber, offers to furnish one table and two chairs gratis. He is a very obliging man; but alas; is giving himself up to that enemy of the bodies & souls of men,—strong drink.—I am pleased here in every respect. The village—plain as it is, and is well called, is one of the pleasantest you can conceive of—the buildings are nearly all painted white, and stand at about 5 rods' distance from each other, all around the large, square green in front of the College, which is itself a huge 3 story wooden edifice, bearing evident marks of decay, but looking well at a distance. I board on the west and room on the east side of a street which runs south, from the west side of the College green. The College is on an eminence at the east side of the green, facing the west. All the College officers that I have seen, appear like fine, pleasant and learned men, wishing to impart in equal portions, knowledge and happiness to all. I heard professor Shurtleff who is the minister of the village parish, preach yesterday afternoon, and was highly gratified. A young man from a neighbouring state preached in the forenoon. Thus through the goodness of my Heavenly Guardian I have been guided, and protected and succeeded, beyond almost my hopes; and can only exclaim—"What shall I render to my God for all his benefits," and dedicate myself renewedly to Him.

Wednesday Morning. Esq. Greenough brought Jeremiah on, they arrived here last evening at half past 3 o'clock. We have fixed up our bed so that we shall get along very well. The present term is 16 weeks long, or nearly that; you will see by the almanack that next vacation begins on the first monday in January. I shall have to leave before that time, if I pay my expenses as I go; and if I take a school I should wish to commence it by the first of Dec. or before, as it is probable that I could obtain leave of absence 4 or 5 weeks before the close of the term. Money seems even here to be made of ice; it melts and runs away almost in the pocket.—This term will be far the most expensive of any—ten thousand things must be gotten which no one thinks of beforehand. However I have made a pretty strict law with myself with regard to money-spending and hope, with prudence, to float down, or rather beat up, this term; and then if I should not have enough to pay stage fare home, I shall, if able, foot it, though there may come a snow storm by that time, and block us in for the winter almost. However I will leave or at least endeavour to leave, all these things to the Care and Providence of Him, who has the ends of the earth at his disposal, and knows what is best for his frail, unworthy children. This letter I shall send by Esq. Greenough to Bradford, and he will forward it thence, either by post, or private conveyance if opportunity offers. Write me soon—good advice from a parent is ever salutary. I want to know how Margaret is, and would wish John to write.—Your truly affectionate son.—D. PEABODY.

Mr. John Peabody, Topsfield, Mass.

By the politeness of W. Greenough, Esq.

Willington, near Farmville, Pr. Ed. Co. Va. Feb. 15, 1831
Dear Brother—

I hope you have on hand a good stock of courage, for if you have not, the formidable appearance of this huge sheet may frighten you. However, as you have probably been expecting it, several weeks, it doubtless will

neither surprise nor alarm you. The reason that I have not written to you before, is, that I have been waiting for the arrival of my trunk from Richmond, in order to obtain this paper. It has arrived at last. I got it yesterday by means of a baggage waggon, all safe & sound, except a few rubs & bruises. I have experienced much inconvenience from the want of it;—but, on the whole, I am inclined to look upon the circumstance of its detention, as providential & altogether favorable to my health. For had my books been here, I should probably have been induced to study more than my strength would bear, & to expose myself to the cold morning air in riding 2 or 3 miles to & from recitation—so that the consequences might have been exceedingly injurious.

My design, in this letter, is, to tell you just what I think about Virginia, & how I feel here. This state is as different, in its whole character & appearance, from New England as you can well imagine. In the first place, the whole eastern part of the state, extending more than a hundred miles from the ocean & including Pr. Edward Co. is nearly a dead level. There are little swells, it is true but hardly anything that we should call a hill. The soil, too, is very different from N. Eng. soil. It is either a hard clay about the colour of unburnt brick, or a fine silver coloured sand, or a dirty, slimy loam, having much the colour of tan-bark. When wet, the soil is a perfect bed of mud, sometimes 2 or 3 feet deep. Hence it is almost impossible to walk in the roads, except in dry weather, & extremely difficult to ride, except on horseback. Consequently, the latter is the common mode of travelling, & you will find few planters without a sufficient number of horses, to accommodate themselves & all their families. It is nothing for a planter to own 8 or 10 horses. Most of them have a carriage besides, for the ladies to ride, altho' they often ride horseback, sometimes behind their husbands or brothers. Another thing remarkable in the soil, is, that there are no stones visible. I am certain that I have not seen enough to build two rods of wall, in the state. (It may be found, however, anywhere, by digging a few feet beneath the surface.) Of course, there are no stone walls here. Every where, you find rail fences built in the zig-zag way, (thus xxxx.) Such a fence is very appropriately

called, in the North, *Virginia fence*.—Another thing peculiar, is, that every body seems to live alone. There are scarcely any villages here. Planters live from half a mile to 1 or 3 miles apart; & there is so much woodland all around the plantations, that one might suppose there was nothing but wilderness for hundreds of miles on every side. This is not like looking out a window on a Topsfield hill, & seeing the houses of a dozen neighbours all at one glance.——

So much for the difference in the aspect of the country. The difference in the feelings & manners of the people, is quite as great. The labour, you know, is all done by slaves. Hence it is regarded as almost disgraceful for a white man of respectability to be seen at work. Young gentlemen & ladies generally amuse themselves in reading newspapers & novels, in hunting & riding about. This gives a feeling of superiority to the Southern people; & they generally look down upon the Yankees, as they call the Northerners, with a sort of contempt. Another circumstance, which has increased the prejudice against the North, is, that formerly, swarms of pedlars from New Eng. were in the habit of travelling tho' the Southern states, & often enormously cheating the people in selling their wares. A Yankee pedlar, therefore, became an object of general abhorrence; the antipathy extended from the pedlar to all his countrymen. Hence nothing is more common here, than stories, often most ludicrous, about Yankee fraud & cunning, & every man that comes from the North, except in some few more enlightened portions of the state, is regarded, at first, with a degree of suspicion. This place is one of the exceptions referred to—Hospitality is the boasted virtue of the South; & there is some reason for it. The planters, living remotely from each other & having little to do, are glad to have a friend call, & can afford to spend hours & days in entertaining him. People travelling from one part of the state to another, seldom take a meal or lodge at a tavern, at least, much more rarely than at the North. They are always welcome at any private house, free of all expense.——The style of living here, is also singular. Pork is the main article of food. Dr. Morton, where I reside, had 30 or 40 hogs killed in one day, all for his own use. The pork is not salted down, but converted

into bacon, or cured in some other way. Beef is considered as a very inferior sort of food; & so it is as it is cooked here, for it is so dried up as to have very little of the genuine beef taste. I have sometimes thought it would suit your palate remarkably well. Roast turkey is likewise a favorite dish—we have it about once a week. Rye is not raised here at all. Pure wheat bread & pure corn bread, as they call it, are the only kinds used. I long for a slice of rye & indian.—The kitchen, where all the cooking is done, is generally in an out-house some 6 or 8 rods from the dwelling house, so that every warm dish has to go thro' dust, rain, snow or whatever else may happen, before it get to the table.—I suppose you would be pleased with some account of the family where I reside. To begin, then, I will introduce you to Dr. M's father, a short, thick, corpulent man, weighing well towards 3 hundred, about 75 years of age, but apparently much younger. He is of a sandy complexion, & has a face which sometimes reminds me of Dr. Peabody's. He is one of the revolutionary officers, a lieutenant in the army, but bearing the title of major now. He was in a great many battles, & can give you all the particulars of them. He retains his faculties to a remarkable degree & is perhaps a little proud of his activity both of mind & body. He has been a great singer in his day, & he still acts as clerk at church, that is, he sets the tune. He takes his place in the pulpit, & as soon as the minister has read the hymn, he rises & with a dreadful bawl, begins the tune, while any others who please in different parts of the house, strike in. Regular quoirs are scarcely known here. He also sings night & morning at family devotions, much to my annoyance. I think he has the strongest voice, & the most unmusical, too, that I ever heard. I have been informed on unquestionable authority, that it has been heard more than 3 miles. He is, moreover, an elder in the church.—Dr Morton himself is an intelligent, entertaining man, rather rough in his appearance & manners, but possessed of kind feelings. He is often absent several days together at the gold mines, 40 or 50 miles west of us, in which he is deeply interested, but where, I am afraid, he will obtain very little to pay him for his toil & trouble. He also is a professor of religion.—

Mrs. M. his wife, is a kind, amiable woman, of excellent mind & ardent piety. She, however, has very feeble health & is now confined to her bed by sickness. There are only two children; one, a gay, active, intelligent, blooming daughter, about sixteen; the other, a mild, gentle, lovely boy, about nine. The latter is my pupil. His disposition is uncommonly fine, & he has endeared himself to me exceedingly. It is a pleasure to instruct him. Another boy is associated with him in study, not quite so interesting, but still very clever.—You are not very desirous, probably, of becoming acquainted with the negroes, of whom there are 70 or 80, I believe, living in little log huts round about us. It distresses me to see them. They are well treated;—but then to think how they are growing up in ignorance & sin, & in such a degraded & hopeless condition for this world & the next, is extremely painful. As servants, they are unfaithful, they never do any thing *well*, & their masters would be glad to get rid of them if they could. To set them free, would be to form hordes of thieves & robbers, (for this experiment has been tried,) unless they are sent out of the country, & the expense of doing this, would be greater than the masters could bear.

Thus I have given you, at much greater length than I intended, my thoughts about Virginia; & as to my feelings, here, you perhaps can form a pretty correct opinion for yourself. I sometimes feel as if among strangers in a strange land, it is true, because every thing about me is so new and strange. But I find the kindest of friends everywhere. People in this immediate vicinity are extremely friendly toward gentlemen from the North. Dr. Rice's lady, who is a sister of Dr. Morton, treats me, as she does all the students, with the utmost kindness; & I feel as much at home there, as at my own residence. Dr. Rice has been sick nearly 3 months, & is very little better. My health remains as usual. I think the style of living here does not suit me exactly; I make the best of it.

We have had about the hardest winter, it is said, ever known here. Snow fell to the depth of a foot or more, 3 weeks ago, & the ground is covered with it still.—I went to work & made a sort of sleigh, as soon as it came, & we have

had several respectable sleigh-rides in it. It is the wonder of the whole neighbourhood, & every body said it must be a piece of Yankee contrivance. I take most of my exercise, excepting that of riding, in my boyish employment of tinkering, as Dr. M. has a tolerable set of tools which are at my service.— — I intended to devote half of this sheet to Joel, but found so much to say to you, that I must trouble him at some other time. You cannot imagine how I long for a letter from home. Not a single letter since I left you! I sometimes accuse my friends of cruelty; & I am sure, if they knew how I am starving for a letter from them, some of them would write without an hour's delay. What is there interesting in Topsfield? How proceeds the good work? Who among our friends share in it? &c. Do not rest dear brother, till you get somebody to write immediately. Let Cynthia write if she will.

Your brother with more affection than he can express,
D. PEABODY.

17. I have just received an interesting letter from Br. John, & am glad to learn that you are all well. His letter afforded me a rich banquet. It has done me more good than a present of a hundred dollars.

Willington is the name of Dr. M.'s plantation. I wrote to br. John, a few weeks ago—wonder if he received the letter.

St. Francisville (La.), Jan^y 23^d 1837.

Dear mother:

In my letter to John, written & sent more than a month ago, I believe I promised to write about once in 6 weeks. I suppose it matters not whether I write to him or you; as my letters are probably read by you all, worthless as they may be. You are doubtless looking for one about this time, which shall inform you where we are, & how, under the kind providence of God, it is faring with us. Well then, let me tell you that we are in a place which reminds us more strongly of Sodom, than any we have ever seen, or ever expected to see. But still, God preserves us, & gives us much to enjoy & much to be thankful for. I think, if we ever get

safe back to New England, whether our health is improved or not by our visit to this region, we shall not regret that we came here, if it be only to teach us to prize our privileges more, & be more grateful that our lot was cast in such pleasant places.

I have been something of a wanderer in my day—yet every wandering only endears my native land to me the more. You can hardly conceive how totally regardless the people here generally are of every thing of a religious nature. Shops are kept open on the Sabbath; & more marketing is probably done on that day, at least more produce is sold by the slaves, than on any other day in the week. Very few persons will attend meeting in proportion to the whole number. There are probably two or three hundred persons (white persons) in the two villages of the town, who might & ought to attend meeting every Sabbath. Yet not a quarter part of them ever come. The larger proportion of attendants, except children, are from the country around. Sometimes we have, when the weather is good, more than a hundred present. Thus far I have preached every Sabbath, except one when we had an Episcopal minister present. There are two Meeting-houses in this village, one Presbyterian & one Episcopal, yet, as they not in a state comfortable in cold or rainy weather, we generally meet in the Court-house. I sometimes feel as if it was entirely useless to attempt to do any good here, every body is so given up to worldly pursuits & pleasures, & there is so little regard for serious things. The prevalence of profaneness & drinking & every sort of wickedness is such as to disgust every one not accustomed to the worst form of human character. When I express surprise, I am told for my encouragement, that a few months will make me feel very differently. But I hope I shall never learn to look on sin with any other feelings than those of unmingled abhorrence. There are many people here from the Northern States; but most of them seem if possible, worse than the natives. They are generally such as have come for the purpose of getting rich; & they appear to have bartered all regard for their souls, for the object they are pursuing.

As I have said so much about this place, I will just complete the description. Imagine then, in the first place, the Mississippi River, a mighty stream about a mile wide, running near in a south direction. Up this River, a little more than 200 miles from its mouth, & about half that distance above New Orleans, is St. Francisville. It is on the east bank of the River. One village, called the Bayou, stands directly on the shore, & consists of perhaps 50 or 60 houses within the compass of half a mile square. You then take an eastern direction up a hill, & after going about a mile, come to the other village, where we have taken up our residence. It is built on two main streets running east & west, & contains not far from 100 houses. Its appearance is old & decaying. There is nothing about it in the least degree pleasant; & considering the state of society, I certainly would much rather take up my abode in some heathen countries than here. Nor does it seem to be a place capable of being made much better. There are probably 20 lawyers in & about the village, & they are for the most part violently hostile to vital religion; & exert a tremendous influence against it. Some of them occasionally attend meeting on the Sabbath; but they are quite as likely to be parading the streets at the head of a military company—a thing which has occurred I believe three times since we came here, on the Sabbath.

Mr. Ballard, who is engaged to Maria's sister, has got up a pretty interesting Sabbath School, & we hope for more good from this than every thing else. Men seem hardened in sin. Possibly something may be done for the youth. Mr. B. seems resolved to settle down here permanently. But we cannot think of bringing a wife into such a place. It is astonishing how professors of religion, when they remove from the privileges & restraints of religious society, seem to lose their spirit as Christians, & fall into the habits which prevail around them. There are here several such from the Northern States, who seldom if ever visit the house of God, & who are as inattentive to the religious instruction of their children as others. Indeed they would not be known except from the fact of their profession. How much reason have we to pray—"Lord, lead us not into temptation."

You will perhaps wonder how it happens that there are two Meeting-houses here, and no religion. One of them was originally built by Baptists. They held worship in it a while; but finding, as it appear, that their efforts were in vain, they relinquished the house to Presbyterians. A Mr. Scott, an excellent Presbyterian minister preached in it a while, & then removed to another place. He was a man of some wealth & probably supported himself. Then a Mr. Montgomery came & preached some time; but his health failed him; & finally marrying a rich widow with a plantation worth perhaps 150 thousand dollars, he retired & now lives at his ease. He too is an excellent man. I have spent a number of days in his family. He would preach if able; but an asthma renders it nearly impossible. No labors hitherto have been much blessed in this place; & it was probably never in so unpromising a state as now. The Episcopal house was built only a few years ago, & was never finished till very recently. There is preaching in it occasionally; but rarely.

One reason, why the good seed falls on this ground with so little effect, is, that every body is in a rage to get rich; & Christ has intimated that it is a hard matter for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God. Only think of a planter's raising 75 thousand dollars worth of cotton in a single year. Yet this is often done—and the rapidity with which men accumulate wealth in other ways, tho' not so great, is something like it. For instance, where a Lawyer or Physician would charge 5 dollars at the North, they charge 50 or 75 here. We have taken a few scholars to teach while here; & are to have 6 dollars a month apiece for them. And this, in proportion to other things is very low. Not long since, a man married a lady who was worth 100 thousand dollars. After the marriage, the man said to himself—"All I am worth, I got by my wife—That is not a very pleasant idea, I will see what I can do for myself"—So he entered into speculation; & in less than 18 months he was worth about 3 times as much as on the evening of his marriage. Thus riches pour in in torrents here; & they overwhelm & destroy every thing else. For my part, I was never so fully convinced of the wisdom of the instructions of the mother of Lemuel, (See Proverbs 31 chap.) as since I came to this country.

I do long to hear from you, & cannot but hope that a letter is on the way from John or some of you, & that it will soon reach me. I often think that you may some of you be sick or in trouble, & long to be where I could sympathise & assist. It is some consolation to be able to bring you all before the Mercy Seat & commend you to the care of our Father in heaven. May his kind wing be over you, & his mercy be multiplied to you exceedingly.

Our health is pretty good, except that we have suffered some from bowel complaints, owing probably to the change of diet. We can hardly get what we consider wholesome food. The Small Pox is now among us & as many of the negroes have not been vaccinnated, it will be likely to spread. But may God preserve us all.

Maria unites in love & kind wishes,

Most affectionately, your son,

D. PEABODY.

Scarcely an hour had passed after writing the last page, when I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from John, dated Dec. 30, by which I learn that you are or were all well. The Lord be praised. You will please say nothing about our having taken a few scholars, for if it should get to Worcester, we might be thought to have taken too much upon us. Be not anxious on account of the Small Pox. We have both been vaccinated; I have been twice.

I hope Joel will write me, & that soon. D. P.

Mrs. Lydia Peabody

Care of Dea. J. R. Peabody,

Topsfield, Mass.

THE BUILDING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING HOUSE IN 1842.

Be it remembered that on this fourth day of July A. D. 1842 it is agreed by and between, Mark R. Jewett of Rowley in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts—Housewright—on the one part—and by the Congregational Parish, in Topsfield in said County—on the other part—in manner and form following viz: That the said Mark R. Jewett for the consideration hereinafter mentioned doth for himself, his Executors, Administrators and assigns, promise and agree to and with the said Parish and their successors, that he the said Mark R. Jewett or his assigns shall and will within the space of *Five months* next following the date hereof in a good and workmanlike manner, at Topsfield aforesaid—well and substantially erect, build, set up, and finish one meetinghouse for said Parish according to the draughts, references and specification hereunto annexed.

In consideration whereof the said Parish doth promise and agree to and with the said Mark Jewett or his assigns, well and truly to pay, or cause to be paid unto the said Mark Jewett or his assigns the sum of Four Thousand Three Hundred Dollars in manner following, that is to say—one fourth part thereof at the time of raising the Frame of said House—one fourth part when the outside is finished—one fourth part when the inside is ceiled and plastered—The other and last part when the House shall be completely finished and accepted.

In witness whereof the said Congregational Parish and Mark Jewett aforesaid have hereunto set our hands and seals this fourth day of July in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and Forty two.

Mark R Jewett Contractor

Signed sealed in presence of Joseph Hasty H. Cummings The Congregational Parish in Topsfield by	} Wm Munday C. B. Bradstreet J. R. Peabody John G. Hood B. P. Adams A. S. Peabody Samuel Todd	} Their Committee chosen and duly authorized by said Parish
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N. B. That the parties have agreed to build and pay for the Meetinghouse in Five months as named in the contract above—with full liberty reserved to each party—that if the inclemency of the weather or unfavorable rains should intervene or bodily inability of the contractor—should render it necessary—that this contract can be extended indefinitely.

The committee Chosen by the Cong. Parish on the 27th of April A. D. 1842 to dispose of the old house and build a new one would make the following Statement as the report of their doings.

Credit By sales on old House	\$222.82
Appraisal & Costs & old Pews deducted	161.78
<hr/>	
Balance left in hands of Committee	\$61.04
Also received of loaners on Subscription	1466.50
Money hired of Amos Fisk, Amos Gould & others	1233.33
Notes now outstanding on time	1626 72
Bills not paid & Cash on hand	562 41

\$4950.00

Dr To Cash paid Mark R. Jewett	\$4002.50
“ “ Cash paid for underpinning Stones	85.00
“ “ “ paid P. Tapley for Teaming	73.36
Samuel Goodale Bill Stone work	39.02
Joseph Hasty work on Celler	15.00
Lemuel H. Gould work on Celler	10.00
Thomas Moore eight days work	8.00
Samuel Janes “ “	5.12

88 BUILDING OF MEETING HOUSE IN 1842.

Francis Gould	" "	3.50
David B. Balch	" "	2.25
Philarman Ruggles work of Oxen		1.50
William Hubbard one day		1.00
A. W. & H. O. Warren for Lime		3.00
Edward Clark of Rowley Mason work in Cellar		3.75
Richard Phillips hauling Stones and Gravel		17.00
Charles Snow Teaming		15.20
Samuel Hood labour Timber &c		25.00
D. & D. Andrews Timber for Bell carriage		5.25
Benjamin Herrick Bell work		31.00
John Sawyer Iron work on Bell		7.69
Samuel Symonds, Salem Gold Leaf for Vane		8.75
William H. Chase " for Locks		5.50
J. & H. Hale " Escutcheon Bolts		7.91
J. Henderson " Pew numbers		6.72
Gazette & Register for advertising		2.00
Lane of Newburyport for Letters & Chains		33.25
Banks for interest on Notes		24.08
William Munday—Dinners, Cash &c.		26.50
Samuel Todd Labour & Cash paid out		28.00
C. B. Bradstreet Labour & other services		16.00
John G. Hood Cash paid & labour &c.		45.93
Benjamin P. Adams Bill		25.40
A. S. Peabody Bill		8.00
Joel R. Peabody "		7.00
W. & S. B. Ives Salem printing Deeds &c.		7.00
Josiah Haywood Furnaces		188.02
S. D. Woodbury Pulpit		150.00
Nath ^l Perkins Jr collecting Subscriptions		3.00
		<hr/>
		\$4950.00

This account is rendered exclusive of Bell, Vane & Spindle, and Gallery Lamps they being taken out of the Old House.

And also exclusive of the Chandelier and Pulpit Lamps, Pulpit Bible & Hymn Book, Sofa, Chairs, Table & Carpets. These having been placed in the house without any Cost or transfer to us.

Topsfield March 9, 1843.

JAMES LESSLIE OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.
AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

BY M. V. B. PERLEY.

THE learned research of Rev. George Lesslie and his faith in the origin and form of his name, and in his right to coat-armor, demand recognition. He invariably employed two esses in his sign-manual and impressed his seal with a griffin.

This Anglo-Saxon name in Hungary, its native home, was *lis lyn* (castle-on-lake), and it went into England, about 1067, with Bartholomew de Lislyn, a scion of Hungarian nobility, upon the recall of Prince Edward, "the Outlaw," to the English throne by the decrepit King Edward, "the Confessor." The recall miscarried; the king and the prince both died soon after the arrival of the prince and his family in England; but Margaret, daughter of the prince, married Malcolm III, Canmore, King of Scotland, and Bartholomew trusted his fortune with the fortune of the re-established king.

King Malcolm, recognizing Lislyn's nobility and learning, persuaded of his prowess and valor, and realizing the great value such a personage would be to the Crown, granted or leased to him a large tract of land in county Aberdeen, the equivalent, no doubt, of an earldom, and so conferred upon the possessor the highest rank below the royal family. The high consideration and courtesy of the king gave the Hungarian courtier a local habitation and a surname—Bartholomew of the *leased land*, which

NOTE.—The following persons have given material aid in this compilation: President Homan of Willamette University, Salem, Ore.; Ex-President Whitaker of Willamette University and Librarian Lockwood, Wesleyan Hall, Boston, Mass.; Mr. J. P. Litchfield, historian of the M. E. Memorial Church, Salem, Ore.; C. E. Leslie, Esq., St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Freeland D. Leslie, M. D. (No. 173); Horace G. Leslie, M. D. (No. 126); Mrs. Esther I. Blackwell (No. 96); and Mrs. Helen M. Worthen (No. 124).

in the Old or Norman French, the polished language in England at that time, and the fruitful mother of patronymics, is *lesse* for leased, and *ley*, *lea*, or *lie* for land,—which anglicized became Lesslie;* and Bartholomew de Lesslie and his wife became the Adam and Eve of the race of Lesslies.

The Lesslie coat of arms† for Aberdeen, Scotland, the plainest and therefore the oldest and freighted with greatest honor, is *silver*, on a bend embattled *blue*, three buckles *gold*; the crest a griffin; motto: "Hold fast." This shield is indeed martial, and eminently characteristic of this clan, as illustrated in the call home of Gen. Alexander Leslie to organize an army against Cromwell's religious war, and in placing Gen. David Leslie as Field-Marshal at Dunbar, against Cromwell himself.

This quotation from the extensive foreign correspondence of Horace G. Leslie, M. D. (No. 126), is pertinent here :—

"Many branches of the family live in England and Ireland, and their pedigrees are easily traced to this original :

Bartholomew,	founder,	died 1121.
Malcolm,	charter,	died 1165.
Norman,	charter,	died 1224.
Norino (Norman ?),	charter,	died 1248.
Sir Norman,		died 1282.

*Col. Charles Leslie, K. T., says in his three-volumed history of British Leslies, quoting Vesstigan's poem, a Leslie's duel with a foreign knight:

Between the Lessley and the mair
He slew the knight and left him there.

The Colonel also says: "It is beyond doubt that Bartholomew did obtain from the King a grant of land in county Aberdeen."—*Vol. I, p. 6.*

†The totem of the clan Leslie is a GOLD BUCKLE. Two shields bearing different ordinaries are of very high antiquity—one, as above, with an embattled bend, or military scarf; the other with a fesse or belt, eminently chivalrous, indicating the office of a chap-eron, perhaps, to the Queen, the motto "Grip fast" to the belt, his caution in case of danger. The other motto, "Hold fast," is perhaps more military, as "Hold the fort." About the year 1500 this male descent lapsed, and the inheritress adopted the lozenge-shaped escutcheon.

Sir Andrew de Leslie, who married Mary, daughter of Sir Alexander Abernothy, and received the baronies of Ballinbreich, Cairny and Rothes. His greatgrandson William had a son George, who died 1467, and who was great-great-grandfather of the celebrated Gen. Alexander Leslie.

Sir Andrew, 1325-1353.

Sir Andrew, 1353-1398.

David, died 1439.

"No name stands higher in Scotland than Leslie."

1. JAMES LESSLIE, the immigrant, father of Rev. George Lesslie, styled "Rev." in "Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Essex County" and in Gage's "History of Rowley," was son of a Scotch covenanter, who lived in Coleraine,* county Londonderry, Ireland. The name is now (1912) known in that vicinity.† He came to this country in 1729, with wife Margaret (Sheerar), and located in Topsfield, where maybe he lived till the last half of the year 1754. His son bought land in

*The level area in the northwesterly part of the town of Topsfield, lying west of the B. & M. R. R. tracks and south of the land of the late Arthur W. Phillips, has long been known as "Coleraine." Mention of this locality name appears in a deed as early as 1797, conveying land at this point. The appearance of this unusual name at once suggests a connection with the Irish home of James Lesslie, and who probably lived in this locality which lies on both sides of the Topsfield-Boxford boundary line. James Lesslie paid taxes in Boxford in 1740 and 1741, and those years only. The Topsfield assessors' records do not go back far enough to absolutely prove a Topsfield residence for him.

†Mr. Maxwell Given wrote to Dr. Leslie (No. 126), from Coleraine, Ire., 27 Feb., 1906, "I have just discovered that the Leslie family is descended from Henry Leslie, who became bishop of Down and Connor 4 Nov., 1635. He was son of James, grandson of George, 4th Earl of Rothes, by his second wife, Agnes Summer-ville."

Super-Registrar S. Lecky wrote from Coleraine, Ire., on 25, 3, 1912: "The name once resided in Castletodry, near here, but not now. Grandchildren are in Kilcanny, Coleraine. The name is mentioned in lists of aldermen and representatives in Parliament. Ireland had no public vital records till 1864, when compulsory registration began."

Linebrook* for a house, 1 July, 1753, and when the house was finished in 1754, father, mother and son occupied it, and Mr. James Lesslie and his wife had or were given charge of the communion table, Tuesday, Dec. 31, of that year. On 20 March, 1763, it was voted that he keep the key of the meeting-house, sweep it six times a year, and bring water for baptisms, for one pound a year. Giving Mr. Lesslie the service of making ready the table was wise, especially in winter and stormy weather, since the deacons lived one and a half and two miles away. It was no interference with their office, but lessened the work or care of busy men. "Father Lesslie" died 12 May, 1763. The date of mother Lesslie's death is not recorded.

Children of James and Margaret Lesslie, born in Ireland :

2. ELIZABETH, d. 21 Sept., 1736, in Topsfield.
3. JAMES, d. 30 Sept., 1736, in Topsfield.
4. ESTHER, m. 17 March, 1737-8, Hugh Lynde; lived in Topsfield, where her servant, a child, d. 8 or 18 Aug., 1760, and she d. 2 Oct., 1778.
5. JOSEPH, m. 27 March, 1755, Mercy Dresser. He was taxed in Topsfield, 1761, 3s. 10d. 2f., and his meeting-house rates were abated, 1761, 6s. 4d. "About 1764," reads Felt's History of Ipswich, "Joseph, brother of Rev. George Lesslie, returning to West Ipswich from a residence at St. John's, was drowned, with his wife and seven children." These baptisms and deaths of their children are recorded: James, bapt. 11 Jan., 1756, d. 10 Oct., 1756—*Linebrook rec.*; James, bapt. 10 April, 1757, d. 26 Sept., 1758, aged 18 months, of "convulsion fits"—*Byfield Chh. rec.*; Lynde, bapt. 13 May, 1759; Joseph, bapt. 10 Aug., 1760—*Topsfield rec.*; Mary, bapt. 2 Oct., 1763—*Boxford 1st Chh. rec.*
6. GEORGE, b. 25 Nov. 1727.

*The citizens of South Rowley and West Ipswich met and resolved to establish a territorial parish, 12 April, 1744. The proposed parish was incorporated 5 June, 1746. The incorporated territory was named, 27 June, 1747, Linebrook Parish, because of these streams in its boundary line: Ipswich River, Gravelly brook, Bull brook, Batchelder's brook, Strait brook and Howlett's brook. While the corporate function of the parish has been ignored, the territory has been called Linebrook.

6. REV. GEORGE LESSLIE, A. M., was the fifth child of James and Margaret (Sheerar) Lesslie, and was born 25 Nov., 1727, and, as the History of Washington, N. H., reads, in Coleraine, Ireland. He was brought to America in 1729, or, as per Rev. J. S. Griswold's "New Hampshire Churches," "came from Ireland, when he was eighteen months old, with his parents, who located in Topsfield." He fitted for college,* it is presumed, under Rev. John Emerson, minister of Topsfield. In 1748 he was teaching school in Boxford, and seems to have taught there previously for several years. He graduated from Harvard College, Wednesday, 6 July, 1748. His class had twenty-four members, of whom were George Leonard and Artemas Ward, afterwards congressmen; Perez March and John Rand, librarians; and seven gospel ministers, including Jacob Cushing, S. T. D., and "Georgius Lesslie." All but Ward, Brown and Samuel French took the master's degree.

Mr. Lesslie was admitted to membership in the Topsfield church on profession of faith, 5 March, 1749, and there is no doubt that he studied divinity with his early instructor, Rev. Mr. Emerson. He began to preach at Linebrook, 14 Aug., 1748, the sixth Sabbath after his graduation; and when he began to preach as a candidate for the Linebrook pastorate, 19 March, 1749, he had supplied there thirty-one Sabbaths, and twenty-nine of them before he joined a church, according to the following record:

"At a legal Parish meeting 21 March, 1748-9, Thomas Potter, moderator, Mark Howe, clerk, voted that Abrm How have for his keeping Mr. Lesslie for time past seven pounds old tenor—07-00-0; Voted to give to Mr. John Smith for keeping Mr. Lesslie 3 Sabbaths fifteen shillings old tenor, 0-15-0; Voted to allow Mr. Lesslie six pounds a Sabbath for the time past, before he began upon probation with us which was ye 3d Sabbath in March current," viz., the 19th. His call to settle was accepted 16 Aug., 1749.

*Harvard College records Mr. Lesslie's birth-date as 25 Nov., 1727; his age at matriculation, 16 years, 8 months; and his entrance into college, 26 Feb., 1745, six months after he registered as belonging in Topsfield.

Mr. Felt's History of Ipswich records that Mr. Leslie, "having preached one year," was ordained and installed pastor of the Linebrook church, 15 Nov., 1749, the day of the organization of the church.

The Parish record in this relation reads: "Sept. 21, John Smith, moderator, Voted, Mr. Lesslie's ordination to be, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1749; Voted, Mr. Wigglesworth, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Wally, all of Ipswich, Mr. Jewett and Mr. Chandler of Rowley, Mr. Parsons of Byfield, Mr. Emerson of Topsfield, be the ministers with their messengers that are to assist in ordaining Mr. George Lesslie; Voted the following a committee to invite the ministers: Thomas Potter, John Abbott, Jonathan Burpee, Isaac Davis, James Hibbert."

Mr. Lesslie's dismissal from the Topsfield church was Friday, 6 Oct., 1749. His settlement at Linebrook was £700, old tenor, or \$311.08, and his salary was to be £100 lawful money and twelve cords of wood.

Mr. Lesslie exchanged land with his parish, 1 July, 1753, for land "to set a house on," but he recorded none of the deeds given him, and we have no knowledge of his realty purchases. The land adjoining the meeting-house, given to the parish 13 Feb., 1743, by Joseph Metcalf, was bounded on the north by land of Nathaniel Bradstreet. The location of the land exchanged with the parish, in 1753, was on the north, "adjoining the parish land at the westerly end of said parish land." The land exchanged (leased for 999 years, for a cemetery) was 19 rods long and 2 3-4 rods wide and contained 53 square rods; the land "to set a house on" began at Wicom's corner and ran southwest 23 rods 7 feet, then westerly 2 rods 2 feet, then easterly 16 rods, then 12 rods to the first mentioned bounds, containing 107 square rods. He built a two-story house and a barn on it. They stood a few rods west of his meeting-house. The house was 40 by 20 feet and the barn 44 by 23 feet. The house, some years ago, was burned down, as was his second house, in Washington's great conflagration, and the barn, some years later, tumbled down. He sold his entire interest there, 13 Sept., 1780, to Elijah and Allen Foster, both of Ipswich, for £80. The sale included the home-

stead, 107 square rods ; also a piece of land he bought of Knowlton ; also another piece westward of the above, bounded by Capt. Thomas Foster, westerly by a proprietors' road, northwesterly by Jeremiah Ellsworth, northerly by New Road, easterly by county road, southerly and easterly by parish land ; also another piece on the opposite side of the county road. He sold land in Boxford, "4 1-2 acres and 17 poles," for £200, to Thomas Perley, jr., 2 March, 1780.

We cannot locate his home during the period between his ordination in 1749 and the building of his house in 1753-4. He had a school in Linebrook in 1752, a fact that argues a home there. We may conclude that the family, parents and son, removed to Linebrook, as soon as practical, after his settlement, and possibly occupied the house that stood some distance back of the New cemetery—a Conant home, which some years later was sold to John Perley, sr., and removed to its present location (1915), the second house west of Garrette's hill.

His school doubtless began before 1752. Many students resorted to his home for instruction. In modern phrase, his home was a popular boarding school. He taught the useful sciences and fitted young men for college and for the ministry. Here are a few names, between 1752 and 1759, that are found in the parish records :—Symonds, son of Capt. Baker ; Asa, son of Samuel Bradstreet ; Timothy and Andrew Fuller ; Thomas Stickney ; Samuel Perley ; Thomas Gowing ; Moses Nichols ; Samuel Porter ; and Mark Howe, who paid £6 for six months' tuition.

Mr. Lesslie was one of the organizers of the Essex North Association of Ministers. His is the sixth name signed to their covenant. The Association met with him 13 Nov., 1770, when the matter of Rev. Christopher B. Marsh's church was considered and the action of the church was unanimously sustained.

Mr. Lesslie's publications were confined to occasional sermons. Of those one was in possession of Horace G. Lesslie, M. D., of Amesbury (No. 126), two are in the Essex Institute, and there was one preached at Seabrook (now Hampton Falls) at the ordination of one of his

divinity students, Samuel Perley, 31 Jan., 1765. One of the sermons preserved in the Essex Institute was preached in the North Parish Church of Newburyport, 12 Aug., 1779. The day was Thursday, and probably the sermon was a part of the usual lecture service. The topic was, "The nature and tendency of the sin of selfishness." The text was 2 Timothy, 3 : 2: "For men shall be lovers of their own selves." It was a war sermon. He says: "Fourthly, what we have heard points out one special ground or reason of the perils and distresses of the present day. . . . Criminal self-love is at the bottom of the present unnatural contest between these states." The discourse is unimpassioned, logical, and sharply forceful; it is a Christian minister rebuking the heinous sin of the British ministry. It expressed the prevailing sentiment of the general public, and immediately appeared in print. He left also two sermons in stenography, a page of which is here shown, same size as the original.

Mr. Lesslie attended Ezra Ross at the gallows, in Worcester, 2 July, 1778. Ezra's parents were members of Mr. Lesslie's church, and Ezra, of course, was a member of the church society. Ezra was sixteen years of age, the youngest of seventeen children, of whom nine were then living, and four of the nine were in the war. Returning from his first enlistment, young Ezra fell sick in Brookfield, Mass., and was nursed to health in the home of Mr. John Spooner. Mr. Spooner was a retired lumberman, passively disposed and of simple tastes. His wife was Bathsheba, daughter of Chief-Justice Ruggles. She never knew the want of a luxury that money could buy and was haughty and imperious, and the house was divided against itself. On Ezra's return from his second enlistment, gratitude prompted him to visit his benefactress. He was youthful, had a fine physique, and stature far beyond his years; he was active, social, witty, handsome; she was artful, seductive, profligate. Mr. Spooner was in her way and he was removed. Four persons were arrested, including Mrs. Spooner and young Ezra. The trial was short and the way to the gallows was short. Several petitions, because of her delicate condition and of his youth and accidental knowledge of the deed, were

of no avail. Linebrook was stricken with profound grief; the church appointed a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, which was solemnly kept.

Mr. Lesslie was a justice of the peace, probate attorney and conveyancer. His work is often met with in the records. He wrote a very legible hand, very suited to please copyists. He seems to have cared little to record his own deeds, and the sources of only two pieces, as above, are known, except a right in

George Lesslie

Bull brook pasture, given to his homestead by the Commoners, the line on the north side of the road beginning about eight rods on the west side of Egypt River bridge, and so across said river till it comes to a stake and stones forty-two rods from the first bound. Former owners had digged a well there and a parish committee adjusted the cost, and also 26 March, 1764, employed Thomas Foster to fence in the right, before 20 April, with a lawful rail fence. He built thirty-six rods, showing the river there then to have been about one hundred feet wide.

During Mr. Lesslie's pastorate the population of his parish diminished greatly. One very apparent cause was the formation of a colony in New Brunswick, which took his own brother, his wife's parents and uncles and others.* Yet Mrs. Ruth Conant, daughter of Dea. Philemon Foster and mother of Dea. William Foster Conant, furnishes a creditable labor for the Master. She wrote: "The church was embodied of thirteen male members. In that year twenty-two members were added. From 1749 to 1770 forty-six members were added, making eighty-nine in all. There is no account of other additions during Mr. Lesslie's pastorate."

Besides the diminution of population, there came the depreciation of paper money, and as a climax, the parish declined to make up the deficiency. Mr. Lesslie's affairs were precarious, beyond the power of common faith.

*Raymond's "Saint John River" says: "Many of the settlers of the Maugerville township came, in 1762-1763, from Rowley, Mass. There were Burpees, Barkers, Perleys, Jewetts, Palmers, and others."

He had arrived at Troas ; he heard a voice from Washington, N. H., "Come over and help us," and it seemed to him a fruitful relief. He thereupon determined upon a dismission from the pastorate, 22 Oct., 1779, a council convened 4 Nov., 1779, advised that the pastorate be dissolved, 30 November, the date that had been agreed upon by the church and the pastor. His transfer of membership was 10 Dec., 1779. His wife asked for a transfer of her membership to Washington on 3 Aug., 1780, which was voted 11 Sept., 1780.

Once, during Mr. Lesslie's pastorate at Linebrook, the distinguished pulpit orator and nation-wide evangelist, Rev. George Whitefield, preached. The attraction at Linebrook may have been the common factor in Calvinistic Methodism and Presbyterian Calvinism. The date of the occasion is unknown. A forenoon in September, 1770, Mr. Whitefield dedicated the South meeting-house in New Rowley, now Georgetown. The exact date of that important event is also unknown. It is judged that the day of dedication at New Rowley, which Gage's History of Rowley says may have been 12, 13, or 22, Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday, would have been opportune for the great occasion at Linebrook. The church was early filled to repletion, and the multitude, some 2000 to 3000 persons, was obliged to occupy the open field. On the Ellsworth road, north side, 14 rods from the corner at the county road, is a large flat rock or ledge, with perpendicular front, that became the improvised pulpit of the reverend clergyman. It was beautifully situated to the open field and afforded a fine opportunity for his stentorian voice and impressive eloquence. The ledge is known as "Pulpit Rock." This brief episode was told the writer by his uncle John Perley, whose father owned a residence, half a mile perhaps from the meeting-house ; also by Nathaniel and Ephraim Foster, both octogenarians now (1913), whose grandfather owned a house and reared a family about eighty rods from "Pulpit Rock." Later their grandfather Allen Foster owned the Lesslie homestead. Those gentlemen were familiar with the territory and knew well its colloquial history.

Mr. Lesslie and his family left Linebrook for Wash-

ington, N. H., 6 March, 1780. They were nine days making the journey of eighty miles. At that time there were no public roads worthy the name. Intelligence from the country around was only occasional. Only once in two or three months was news received from Boston. Washington was originally Monadnock, No. 8. It was settled in 1768, and called Camden, and 13 Dec., 1776, was incorporated as Washington. By a vote of the town proposals were made to Mr. Lesslie in September, 1779; his salary was to be fifty-five pounds, payable in rye at four shillings per bushel, corn at three shillings, beef at two and one-half cents per pound, and pork at four cents per pound, with other eatables and wearing apparel at equivalent rates, and his settlement was to be two hundred acres of land, "to him and his heirs forever,"—as provided in the town grant to the first minister. Rev. Mr. Kindall was chosen to transmit the proposals. Robert Mann was to wait on Mr. Lesslie the first week in November for his answer. The agreement was made and the people of Washington by subscription furnished money to transfer his effects. In 1794 the town voted to pay his salary in money.

His privations the first year were great. Provisions, in many instances, could not be obtained without going from thirty to forty miles. His first winter was unusually long. Snow fell 19 October, two feet deep, and remained till late in the next spring. During that spring, twenty-seven of his people's cattle died of starvation. Mr. Lesslie lost his only cow. Fasting and prayer were observed on account of the sad prospects. One whole winter his family was without salt, and a bushel in the spring cost \$5.

The church was organized 9 May, 1779, but its original records for the first twenty years are lost. Mr. Lesslie was installed its pastor 12 July, 1780, in a barn belonging to John Safford, when the pastor was fifty-three years old. He was known as "Priest Lesslie," the common title of the day.

The first move to build a meeting-house was in 1785. The timbers were got out in 1786, all cut and hewed in the old of the moon in September and October, and the

building was finished in 1789, when the town raised £80 for the purpose. Mr. Lesslie's son David was the first sexton, and served the first year for 3s. 6d.

Mr. Lesslie's character was essentially Scotch—strong, courageous, active, efficient, stable, true. He had faith in his ability to do whatever he undertook. Very few persons have had better visible ground of faith than he had. He belonged to that brilliant Scotch-Irish intellect that planted the Presbyterian faith in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and gave us our twenty-seventh national president. He worked harmoniously with Congregational Calvinism, as might be expected, and was regarded as a strong defender of the faith.

Early in his ministry he formulated, as follows, his faith and practice: "I take God, the Father, to be my chief good and highest end; I take God, the Son, to be my only Lord and Saviour; I take God, the Holy Spirit, to be my Sanctifier, Teacher, Guide and Comforter; I take the Truth of God to be my rule in all my actions; I take the people of God to be my people in all conditions. I do likewise devote and dedicate unto the Lord my whole self, all that I am, all that I have, and all I can do. This I do deliberately, sincerely, freely and forever." His recognition of Young's "Column of true majesty in man," in covenanting with himself, is an act sorrowfully unusual, but worthy of the man. It shows his estimate of individual effort and character; it shows his lofty aspiration and purpose, his implicit trust in the Scriptures and their Author, how a man "may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

His environment was unequal to his ability. He would have adorned a college professorship and won distinction as a barrister. He was a clear thinker and writer, and was held in high repute as a logician; he was among the strongest defenders of the faith in the sphere of his labors.

Felt's History of Ipswich says of him: "He fitted many pupils for college, and others for the ministry. He had a strong mind, was a noted scholar, and a pious minister." Rev. James Bradford, in Gage's History of Rowley, says: "He possessed a powerful intellect, was

an eminent scholar, and a pious and useful minister." Rev. J. F. Griswold, in *New Hampshire Churches*, writes: "He was a man of correct sentiments, a good scholar, and of studious habits, conscientious, of strict integrity, and had the confidence of his people." His life with his people was a constant benediction. He preached morality, by word and conduct, as fundamentally essential to a correct religious life—a life that was his. His people had great cause to rejoice in his labors and to revere his memory.

Soon after Mr. Lesslie left Linebrook, he was invited to a professorship in Dartmouth College, says a family tradition. In this regard, President Tucker of the College, 21 Feb., 1900, wrote: "I have not been able to find any trace of such appointment. This, however, is purely negative testimony, for our records from 1770 to 1780 are very meagre." We understand that the college was then engaged in making history more than in writing it. The history, however, is quite adequate to our purpose. The President, Rev. Dr. Wheelock, died 24 April, 1779, leaving the presidency, the Dartmouth pulpit and the chair of divinity vacant. The presidency was immediately occupied by the Doctor's son John, who had been educated in the college and been a tutor there, and who had been a politician of honorable distinction and an officer in the Revolutionary army; the pulpit was occupied by the eminent evangelist, Sylvanus Ripley; but the chair of theology remained vacant till 1782. Recalling now that Mr. Lesslie received proposals from Washington in September, 1779, made arrangements with Mr. Robert Mann in the first week in November, was dismissed 30 November, and left Linebrook 6 March, 1780, Mr. Lesslie and the Dartmouth professorship were brought face to face in the eye of the alert young president.

Mr. Lesslie's ability, learning, scholarship, classical repute, his school fitting for college and the ministry, his status among literary men and his Presbyterian views were a temptation to the college, and aptly support the tradition. Mr. Griswold says he declined the professorship on account of "the encouragement he had given the Washington people to settle with them." Yes, but

that "answer" or agreement with Mr. Mann in November could not be evaded. He must decline the chair.

In the fall of 1790 appeared a Catholic missionary, Rev. John Thayer, later Catholic priest of Boston. He was a native of Boston, had traveled in Europe, and sojourned in Rome. He died in Limerick, Ire., 26 Nov., 1815. Rev. Dr. Bentley's diary, Salem, Mass., March 26, 1791, says, Mr. Thayer challenged all the Protestant clergymen to a doctrinal disputation; that he announced a proposed conference with Rev. George Lesslie; that the latter did not appear—till later. Let that be so, the delay was probably occasioned by the deep snows and driving storms incident to those months in our early years.

Mr. Thayer says :* "The occasion of my discussion with Mr. Lesslie was an advertisement I published a few weeks after I returned to my native town, 24 Nov., 1790." Mr. Thayer offered in the *Boston Gazette* to preach in any adjoining town and answer questions; he offered, 26 Jan., 1791, to preach, or debate, or print in any newspaper that would furnish space. To the last proposition the *Gazette* agreed, and "soon after" Mr. Thayer published his first paper—a statement of doctrinal belief, covering, in book form, five duo-decimo pages.

Mr. Lesslie headed his reply with this sentiment and obeyed the precept:

Unus apex verbi ratione valentior omni,
Milleque decretis conciliisque prior.

He covered three pages. He stated the topic and the criterion. In that he was fair, judicious, wise. He proposed "The Pope's Infallibility," and announced that "No arguments will be looked upon and treated as worthy of notice but such as are evidently drawn from and grounded upon the sacred Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments."

Mr. Thayer's rejoinder covered twenty-eight pages, as if

"By apostolic blows and knocks
He'd prove his doctrine orthodox."

*Mr. Thayer's pamphlet may be found in the *Boston Athenaeum*. (Tr. B. 149, p. 393.)

He stated that Mr. Lesslie's fourth objection, which he takes for granted, is what all Catholics deny, viz.: "That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are a complete and perfect rule of faith. On the contrary, the doctrine of our church is that the word of God is the *complete* and *perfect rule* of our faith, which word we contend is not *wholly* contained in the Scriptures, but is in part transmitted to us in the traditions of the church."

Thus the doughty challenger was vanquished by his own admission. Imagine a man discussing religion without Scripture, only as it served him. He admitted that Scripture alone did not support his dogma. He taught an insufficiency of Scripture contrary to St. Paul (2 Tim. 3 : 16), and he taught traditions, as did the Jews whom Jesus rebuked (Mark 7 : 7) ; and Mr. Lesslie retired from the contest. In October, 1811, Dr. Bentley wrote in his Diary : "Mr. Leslie's manners were singular, but Mr. Thayer, the Catholic convert, told me his mind was powerful,"—significant remark ! Thayer had met Lesslie.

It is very probable that the "proposed conference" referred to above was not "proposed" by Mr. Lesslie. He might not have known of the challenge at all, since news, in dead of winter, reached Washington not oftener than monthly. He was considered strong in defence of the doctrines of his church, and was, no doubt, urged to the war of words.

Mr. Lesslie married 26 Oct., 1756, Miss Hephzibah Burpee, youngest daughter of Dea. Jonathan and Mehit-able (Jewett) Burpee of Rowley-Linebrook, Rev. Jedediah Jewett of Rowley officiating. Her parents and uncle were among the early settlers of New Brunswick,* Canada. She was born in Rowley, 31 March, 1738, and died in Washington, N. H., 11 April, 1814. Mr. Lesslie was pastor at Washington twenty years—till he died, 11 Sept.,

*Raymond's "Saint John River" says: Dea. Jonathan Burpee, first deacon of the Linebrook church, became also first deacon of the First church in Maugerville, N. B. His grandson David was sheriff of county Sunbury and the first school-teacher in New Brunswick. Among his descendants was Hon. Isaac Burpee, minister of customs, and E. R. Burpee, manager of the "Western Extension" railroad.

1800, when he was seventy-three years old. The town voted a headstone for his grave and the following epitaph:—

“He was a man of brilliant genius and great learning, and eminent for piety and morality.”

Dr. F. D. Leslie (No. 173) saw the stone, 18 Sept., 1904, in a good state of preservation, but tipped over, and the lot moss-covered. He set the stone in cement and seeded the ground—good for another century.

Eight of their children were born in Rowley and one died there, the ninth was born in Washington. The hours and minutes of their births are on record. On the list of these births the numbers before the months are respectively the days of the births and the baptisms. The latter were all on Sundays.

Their names are erroneously printed in Ipswich vital records, where George's birth-date is given to David, and David's birth-date and George's name are omitted.

Children of Rev. George and Hephzibah Lesslie:—

7. GEORGE, 7: 26, P. M., 12-15 Jan., 1758.
8. DAVID, 6: —, A. M., 17-17 Dec., 1758.
9. JAMES, 10: 24, A. M., 10-15 March, 1761.
10. JONATHAN, 1: —, A. M., 5-5 June, 1763.
11. WILLIAM, 3: 15, A. M., 4-10 Aug., 1766.
12. HEPHZIBAH, 3: 30, A. M., 19-25 March, 1770.
13. JOSEPH, 12: 26, —, 28 Feb.-6 March, 1774.
14. MEHITABLE, 5: —, A. M., 5-6 Sept., 1778.
15. ELIZABETH, b. 27 May, 1782; lived in Washington, where she d. in old age.

VITAL STATISTICS OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

BIRTHS.

1913

- April 2. Dorothy Howard, dau. of Frederick E. and Mary H. (Lowe) Pingree.
July 13. Mary Seavernia, dau. of Christian and Mary A. (Wilson) Simensen.
(Born in Salem.)
July 16. Dorothy Pearl, dau. of John B. and Pearl B. (Hussey) Colby. (Born
in Salem.)

1914

- Jan. 2. Elizabeth Peirce, dau. Everett A. and Elizabeth E. (Whitehouse)
Harris.
Jan. 11. Katharine Goldthwait, dau. of Elmer B. and Anna G. (Blaney) Thomas.
Mar. 1. Eleanor, dau. of Russell C. and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Smith.
Mar. 6. Nicholas, son of Paul and Lucy (Le Caporal) Cassessa.
Mar. 24. Anjolina, dau. of Giovanni and Leone (—) De Cortis.
June 13. Antoinette, dau. of Joseph and Consetta (Paglia) Landolphe.
July 28. James Kenneth, son of Manuel F. and Josie (MacDougall) Castle.
Aug. 5. Katherine, dau. of Edmond and Rose (Ross) Nadeau.
Aug. 7. Lilli Mary Margaret, dau. of L. Richard and Lilli Sarah Katherine
(Halbert) Peterson.
Sept. 7. James Herbert, son of James F. and Mildred E. (Towne) Morissey.
Sept. 21. John S., son of John S. and Emma (Atherton) Lawrence.
Oct. 22. Joseph, son of Antonio and Filomena S. (Nicola) Scoglio.
Oct. 23. Benjamin Franklin, son of George A. and Emma A. (Burbank) Lord.
Dec. 1. Robert Gordon, son of Karl Gordon and Daisy Belle (Brown) Smerage.
Dec. 6. Mary, dau. of Peter and Margaret Anna (Frizzell) Anderson.
Dec. 18. Catherine, dau. of Henry Follansbee and Margaret (Pingree) Long.
Dec. 27. John Harding, son of Morris John and Mary Anne (Bennett) Brown.

MARRIAGES.

- 1914
Feb. 4. Edward J. Prest (Bristol, R.I.), son of William and Rebecca (Morton) Prest.
Sarah L. Balch (Topsfield), dau. of Rodney D. and Susan I. (Adams) Perkins.
- April 1. Joseph Broomhead (Attleboro), son of John and Hannah (Higginbotham) Broomhead.
Ina M. Needham (Topsfield), dau. of Alfred and Mary (Leonard) Thompson.
- May 23. Clinton O. Ingraham (Topsfield), son of Obed and Cassie (Etheridge) Ingraham.
Rena A. Palmer (Topsfield), dau. of Philip and Carrie F. (Merrill) Palmer.
- May 23. Charles O. Leach (Boston), son of Ralph H. and Elizabeth (Ketchum) Leach.
Abbie A. Welch (Topsfield), dau. of C. Frank and Emma (Wallace) Welch.
- June 9. Joseph N. Smith (Topsfield), son of Joseph N. and Sarah (Fuller) Smith.
Lillie C. Silver (Salem), dau. of William and Silvia (Clark) Silver.
(Married in Salem.)
- Oct. 1. Orin W. Stevens (Groveland), son of Orin W. and Susan R. (Jackson) Stevens.
Emma F. Perkins (Topsfield), dau. of Walter M. and Mary A. (Page) Scates.
- Oct. 5. Ernest L. Gilmore (Attleboro), son of William H. and Arma W. (Lane) Gilmore.
Margaret A. Treen (Attleboro), dau. of Lewis and Agnes (Langille) Treen.
- Oct. 14. Peter J. Kilhouley (Topsfield), son of Peter C. and Nellie (McKeag) Kilhouley.
Sarah F. McKeever (Salem), dau. of Joseph and Bridget M. (Tansy) McKeever. (Married in Salem.)
- Oct. 21. Thomas E. Elliott (Topsfield), son of James A. and Abbie P. (Lake) Elliott.
M. Violet Towne (Topsfield), dau. of Frank H. and Mary B. (Richardson) Towne.
- Oct. 28. Charles S. Duckworth (Topsfield), son of William H. and Jane (Stewart) Duckworth.
Josephine M. Carey (Boston), dau. of James and — (—) Carey.
(Married in Boston.)
- Dec. 9. Max Kratz (Topsfield), son of William and Wilhelmine (Hensgen) Kratz.
Rosie Beck (Topsfield), dau. of Henry and Christina (Schuler) Beck.
- Dec. 24. Benjamin C. Butterick (Topsfield), son of William H. and Louisa A. (Payzant) Butterick.
Bernice M. Stoddard (Athol), dau. of Harry S. and Effie (Totman) Stoddard. (Married in Athol.)
- Dec. 31. John R. Osborne (Loudon, N. H.), son of John S. and Rachel J. (Brown) Osborne.
Alice Ropes Smith (Topsfield), dau. of Augustus W. and Harriet B. (Shaw) Smith.

DEATHS.

1914

- Feb. 12. John Batchelder, son of Silas and Phebe (Batchelder) Lake, aged 92 yrs., 9 mos., 5 dys.
- Feb. 22. William, son of William and Ann (Simpson) Spencer, aged 84 yrs., 5 mos., 11 dys.
- Mar. 27. Caroline Augusta, widow of James L. Prescott and dau. of Augustus and Eliza (Hovey) Adams, aged 80 yrs., 3 mos.
- April 24. Mary L., widow of Caleb K. Perkins and dau. of Joel R. and Mary (Safford) Peabody, aged 82 yrs., 2 mos., 22 dys.
- April 28. Mary Louisa, wife of Joseph H. Fuller and dau. of Porter B. and Harriet L. (Fish) Peabody, aged 36 yrs., 6 mos., 15 dys.
- May 6. Alvin Fowler, son of Samuel and Sophronia A. (Dodge) Day, aged 53 yrs., 7 mos., 28 dys.
- May 8. Joachim, son of Fritz and Sophia (Smith) Stark, aged 76 yrs., 8 mos., 29 dys.
- May 25. Albert, son of David and Lydia (Elwell) Lane, aged 67 yrs., 6 mos., 13 dys.
- June 1. Henry Merrill, son of Elisha P. and Abigail C. (Foster) Andrews, aged 56 yrs., 4 mos., 4 dys.
- June 2. Eliza Jane, wife of John J. Watson and dau. of Ephraim and Sophronia (Cole) Perkins, aged 47 yrs., 6 mos., 20 dys.
- July 21. Esther Maria, dau. of Josiah and Betsey (Gould) Gould, aged 77 yrs., 5 mos., 21 dys.
- Aug. 6. Sarah Jane, widow of Francis E. Hadley and dau. of Silas and Mary (Trefeathern) Cochrane, aged 83 yrs., 8 mos., 8 dys.
- Sept. 21. John S., son of John S. and Emma (Atherton) Lawrence, aged 15 min.
- Nov. 28. Levi Leach, son of John W. and Sarah J. (Ricker) Beal, aged 65 yrs., 9 mos., 19 dys.
- Dec. 25. Alphonso Taylor, son of Eben S. and Elizabeth Ann (Lester) Merrill, aged 69 yrs., 8 mos., 25 dys.

Deaths in other places, interment in Topsfield.

1914

- Jan. 8. Nathaniel Foster, died in Hamilton, Mass., aged 88 yrs. 1 mo., 2 dys.
- Jan. 18. Thomas F. Ferguson, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 81 yrs., 5 mos., 25 dys.
- Feb. 26. Cora F. Means, died in Chelsea, Mass., aged 41 yrs., 5 mos., 5 dys.
- Mar. 31. Edwin K. Foster, died in Wakefield, Mass., aged 76 yrs., 1 mo., 8 dys.
- May 17. Margaret Perkins, died in Boston, Mass., aged 73 yrs., 7 mos., 9 dys.
- June 23. Helen E. Peabody, died in Essex, Mass., aged 73 yrs., 3 mos., 14 dys.
- June 25. Sarah J. Fiske, died in Salem, Mass., aged 60 yrs.
- July 26. Zola G. Finch, died in Boston, Mass., aged 6 hrs.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN TOPSFIELD IN 1914.

1914

- January 16. House warming of the "Parson Capen House" by the Topsfield Historical Society.
- February. Depth of snow averaged about 18 inches, the greatest for a number of years.
- April. Rev. Philip Deschner of Texas, appointed pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- April 24. Rev. Arthur H. Gilmore of Chicago, Ill. ordained and installed pastor of the Congregational Church.
- June. Regular mission services of the Roman Catholic Church began to be held in the Grange Hall.
- July 25. Soldier's monument (bequest of Justin Allen, M. D.) dedicated.
- August. Warren B. Lyman of Hudson, Mass., elected principal of the High School.
- Sept. 22-23. Annual cattle show of the Essex Agricultural Society.
- October 4. The Peabody-Young house and barn, off North Street, owned by Thomas E. Proctor, and of late occupied by Italian workmen, destroyed by fire.

BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

- Peter Anderson, High St.; garage.
- Andrew L. Peirce, Central St.; dwelling house.
- Miss Fanny F. Peirce, Central St.; dwelling house.
- Manley D. White, Pine St.; garage remodelled.
- Howard Ford, Pine St.; addition to barn.
- Charles J. Peabody, Wenham St.; small barn.
- Charles R. Waitt, Main St.; garage.
- Thomas W. Peirce, Boston St.; garage moved from the Rea Farm to the Peirce farm.
- Thomas E. Proctor, off Perkins St.; the old Bradstreet house remodelled.
- Pasquale Dagsteno, Pemberton St.; dwelling house.
- Robert Roberto, Main St.; addition to dwelling house.
- Ralph D. Hood, Pond St.; old Woodbury ice houses torn down.
- C. Harry Shoemaker, The Turnpike; carriage house removed and remodelled into a dwelling house.

INDEX

TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

VOLUMES XI-XX.

- Accidents in Topsfield, xvii, 142.
Adams, Benjamin P., Biographical sketch of, port., xiii, 16.
Agricultural Farm in Topsfield, xviii, 109.
Allen, Justin, M. D., Biographical sketch of, xiv, 148; xvi, 25.
 Surprise party for, xx, 9.
Averill, William, and some of his descendants, xvii, 57.
Bailey, John, Biographical sketch of, xiii, 19.
Baker-Appleton family, xvii, 95.
Balch, Dr. Israel, Biographical sketch of, xvi, 28.
Band concert (1840), xvi, 106.
Batchelder, Dr. Joseph C., Biographical sketch of, xvi, 21.
Bentley, Rev. William, Extracts from diary of, relating to
 Topsfield, xx, 49.
Bixby donation, xvii, 92.
Bosson, Mrs. Jennie Hood, John Hood and some of his des-
 cendants, xiv, 93.
Boxford's hatred of Topsfield, xx, 23.
Boyden, Frederick, farm, xvii, 182.
Bradstreet, Dr. Joseph, Biographical sketch of, xvi, 9.
Bradstreet, Dr. Nathaniel, Biographical sketch of, xii, 143;
 xvi, 28.
Bradstreet farm, Description of (1814), xx, 61.
Breck, Rev. Daniel, Portrait of, xi, front.

- Bridges in Topsfield, xvi, 50.
Buildings constructed in Topsfield, xi, 184; xii, 152; xiii, 168;
xiv, 156; xv, 160; xvi, 168; xvii, 196; xviii, 124;
xix, 120; xx, 108.
Canal through Topsfield, xvi, 66.
Capen, Rev. Joseph, Funeral sermon on the death of Rev.
Joseph Green, plate, xii, 5.
Capen house, Description of (1814), xx, 60.
Capen house restoration report, xx, x.
Centennial celebration in 1850, xvii, 106-135; 139.
Choate, Dr. David, Biographical sketch of, xvi, 23.
Civil war letter from C. J. P. Floyd, xviii, 53.
Civil war soldiers, xx, 23.
Cleaveland, Dr. Nehemiah, Biographical sketch of, illus., xvi,
16, 81; xiii, 10.
Letter of (1815), xi, 77.
Cleaveland, William Neal, Biographical sketch of, xiii, 11;
xvi, 57.
Clark, Israel, account book (1740-1748), xiii, 143.
Clark, Marietta, Topsfield in the witchcraft delusion, xiii, 23.
Coleraine—origin of the name of the locality? xx, 91.
Congregational Church records (1684-1800), xiv, 5.
Copper mine in Topsfield, xvi, 102; xviii, 20.
Cummings, Cyrus, Biographical sketch of, xiii, 11.
Dam at Boxford Ironworks, Bursting of, xiii, 22.
Davis, Walter, Jr., Wildes family of Essex County, xi, 17.
Dexter, Dr. Richard, Biographical sketch of, xvi, 10.
Dow, George Francis, Biographical sketch of Justin Allen,
M. D., xiv, 148.
Early Topsfield school reports, xvi, 34.
French Acadians in Topsfield, xiv, 137.
Newspaper items relating to Topsfield, xii, 109; xv,
125; xvi, 65; xvii, 88; xviii, 97; xx, 1.
The Israel Clark account book, xiii, 143.
Records of the Congregational Church (1684-1800),
xiv, 5.
William Averill and some of his descendants, xvii, 57.
Witchcraft records relating to Topsfield, xiii, 39.
Dwinell, Dr. Amos, Biographical sketch of, xvi, 9.
Dwinell, Dr. Michael, Biographical sketch of, xvi, 5.

- Dwinell, Sarah Perkins, Biographical sketch of, xi, 180.
Edwards, Benjamin P, Biographical sketch of, xiii, 20.
Edgett, Carrie C., John French and some of his descendants, xiii, 153.
Emerson, (Rev. John)—Towne controversy (1746), xviii, 64.
Emerson, Capt. Thomas, Death of, xx, 63.
Essex Registry of Deeds at Topsfield (1775), xi, 78.
Essex Institute at Topsfield (1856), xviii, 98; (1860), xx, 11.
Fire—Mulliken barn (1850), xvii, 136.
Rea tavern (1836), xvi, 75.
French, Dr. Charles P., Biographical sketch of, xvi, 23.
French, John, and some of his descendents, xiii, 153.
French Acadians in Topsfield, xiv, 137.
Green, Rev. Joseph, Elegy on the death of, xii, 39.
Green, Rev. Joseph, Funeral sermon on, plate, xii, 5.
Gould, Capt. John, Petition of (1694), xi, 100.
Gould, Ensign John, Restoration of commission of (1679), xv, 40.
Gould, John A., Biographical sketch, port., xi, 179.
Gould, Hannah F., Poem by, xvii, 108.
Gould, Dr. Humphrey, Biographical sketch of, xvi, 31.
Gould, Samuel, Military service of (1780), xiv, 91.
Gould, Zaccheus, Biographical sketch of, xiii, 150.
Military service of (1758), xiv, 91.
Gould family vital records, xiv, 151.
Hill, William, M. D., Biographical sketch of, xvi, 26.
Historical notes, xviii, 120.
Hobart, Rev. Jeremiah, Letter of (1686), xi, 79.
Holmes, Charles H., Poems, xx, 2, 24, 39.
Holmes, Mrs. Harriet J., Obituary of, xvii, 102.
Hood, John, and some of his descendants, xiv, 93.
Hood, Salmon D., Biographical sketch of, port., xiii, 19.
House for Nabby Perkins, specifications, xviii, 63.
House for William Perkins, contract (1691), xviii, 4.
Huntington, Elisha, M. D., Biographical sketch of, xvi, 30.
Intemperance in Topsfield, xvii, 153, 168, 172.
Jenkins, Thomas L., M. D., Biographical sketch of, xvi, 27.
Kimball, Jacob, Biographical sketch of, xii, 96h.
Kimball, William E., Biographical sketch of, xiii, 14.
Kneeland, Nehemiah, Biographical sketch of, xi, 173.

- Lake, William G., Obituary of, xvii, 161.
Lamson, John A., M. D., Biographical sketch of, xvi, 31.
Lamson, Josiah, M. D., Biographical sketch of, xvi, 29.
Leach, J. Granville, John Redington and some of his descendants, xii, 97.
Lesslie, James, and some of his descendants, illus., xx, 89.
Linebrook, Description of, xx, 56.
Localities and place names in Topsfield, xi, 81.
Long, H. Follansbee, Bridges in Topsfield, xvi, 50.
 Newburyport and Boston Turnpike, xi, 1.
 Newburyport and Danvers Railroads, illus., xv, 1.
 Physicians in Topsfield, illus., xvi, 1.
 Post Office in Topsfield, illus., xiii, 5.
 Salt marshes of the Massachusetts coast, illus., xv, 105.
 Topsfield streets and ways, xii, 48.
 Town Clerk's records, xi, 101; xv, 41; xvi, 145; xvii, 1; xix, 1.
Long, Ira Perley, Biographical sketch of, xi, 178.
McKenzie, Philip, Certificate of, xii, 108.
Marriage—give or take, xviii, 23, 39.
Meeting house built in 1759, Model of, xvii, front.
 Contract and statement (1842), xx, 86.
 Dedicated (1843), xvi, 127.
 Description of interior and service (1759), xvii, 140.
 Lightning rods on, xii, 138.
 Organ in, xviii, 52.
 Removed to Salem—poem, xvii, 88; 139.
 Steeple of (1817), xii, 108.
Merriam, Dr. John, Biographical sketch of, xvi, 19.
Merriam, Dr. Royal A., Biographical sketch of, illus., xvi, 21.
Methodist Episcopal church, Ministry of, ports., xix, 89.
Methodist meeting house dedication (1854), xvii, 171.
Military formation in 1752, xviii, 8.
Military service, Petition for release from (1693), xv, 124.
Military service to the eastward (1697), xviii, 6.
Military service in 1781, xviii, 24.
Military, see also Topsfield.
Munday, Thomas P., Obituary of, xx, 30.
Newburyport and Boston Turnpike, xi, 2; xx, 53.
Newburyport and Danvers Railroads, illus., xv, 1.

- Newspaper items relating to Topsfield, xii, 109; xv, 125; xvi, 65; xviii, 88; xviii, 97; xx, 1.
- Nichols, Mrs. Mary L., Biographical sketch of, port., xvii, VIII.
- Norwood, Dr. David, Biographical sketch of, xvi, 14.
- Noyes, Rev. Nicholas, Elegy on the death of Rev. Joseph Green, xii, 39.
- Organ in Congregational church, xviii, 52.
- Orne, Benjamin C., Biographical sketch of, xiii, 15.
- Peabody, Rev. David, Biography and letters, port., xx, 66.
- Perkins, George W., M. D., Biographical sketch of, xvi, 33.
- Perkins, John W., Poems, xx, 35, 37.
- Perkins, Rev. William, Lineage of, xviii, 1.
- Perley family vital records, xiv, 152.
- Perley, M. V. B., James Lesslie and some of his descendants, xx, 89.
- Phillips, Richard, jr., Biographical sketch of, xiii, 15.
- Physicians of Topsfield, illus., xvi, 1.
- Pike, Rev. Gustavus D., Biographical sketch of, port., xiii, 147.
- Pike libel trial, xvi, 69.
- Pingree vs. Curtis: the pine slabs suit, xvi, 88.
- Portraits of Topsfield people (1868), illus., xvi, 61.
- Post Office in Topsfield, illus., xiii, 5.
- Proverbs of the olden time, xviii, 14.
- Railroad, Newburyport and Danvers, illus., xv, 1.
- Railroad through Topsfield, xvi, 129, 142; xvii, 137, 143, 156, 164, 174.
- Randall, George M., M. D., Biographical sketch of, xvi, 26.
- Rea, Dr. Caleb, jr., Biographical sketch of, xvi, 15.
- Rea, John, Biographical sketch of, xiii, 12.
- Redington, John, and some of his descendants, xii, 97.
- Salt marshes of the Massachusetts coast, illus., xv, 105.
- Sanborn, Byron, M. D., Biographical sketch of, xvi 27.
- School Reports of Topsfield, xvi, 34.
- Swall, Samuel, References to Topsfield, xix, 116.
- Smith, Asahel, Letter in 1796, xviii, 39.
- Stone, Dr. Jeremiah, Biographical sketch of, illus., xvi, 20.
- Storms in Topsfield (1841), xvi, 116; (1845), xvi, 134; (1854), xvii, 169.
- Streets and ways of Topsfield, xii, 48.

Temperance in Topsfield, xv, 142.

Todd, Harriet E., Biographical sketch of, xi, 177.

Toppesfield, England, in 1851., Account of, xvii, 148.

Topsfield:

Buildings constructed in, xi, 184; xii, 152; xiii, 168;
xiv, 156; xv, 160; xvi, 168; xvii, 196; xviii, 124;
xix, 120; xx, 108.

Extracts from Dr. Bentley's diary relating to, xx, 49.

Description of in 1814, xx, 60.

Description of, in 1854, xvii, 179.

Description of, in 1857, xviii, 102, 107.

Description of, in 1860, xx, 16.

Events in, xi, 184.

Localities and Place Names in, xi, 81.

Military Company in (1684), xii, 107.

Military Company in (1694), xi, 100.

Military service, Release from (1693), xv, 124.

Ministers of, xx, 59.

Streets and ways of, xii, 48.

Town Clerk's records, xi, 101; xv, 41; xvi, 145; xvii,
i; xix, i.

Vital Statistics in, xi, 181; xii, 149; xiii, 165; xiv, 153;
xv, 157; xvi, 165; xvii, 193; xviii, 121; xix 117; xx,
105.

Topsfield Historical Society:

Secretary and treasurer's report (1910), xvi, v.

" (1911), xvii, v.

" (1912), xviii, v.

" (1913), xix, v.

" (1914), xx, v.

Topsfield Hotel (1838), xvi, 91. In 1841, xvi, 116.

Topsfield, Maine, Founding of (1832), xi, 173.

Topsfield Warren Blues, xvi, 82.

Topsfield Warren Blues, Regulations of (1837), xiv, 88.

Towne, Mrs. Abbie Peterson, Topsfield in the witchcraft de-
lusion, xiii, 23.

Towne, Jacob, accounts (1793-1797), xviii, 28.

Towne, Luke, assault case (1848), xvii, 101.

Towne family papers, xviii, i.

Towne family statistics, xviii, 51.

- Vital Statistics in Topsfield, xi, 181; xii, 149; xiii, 168; xiv, 153; xv, 157; xvi, 165; xvii, 193; xviii, 121; xix, 117; xx, 105.
- Webster, Albert, Biographical sketch of, xi, 177.
- Welch, Mrs. Ellen A. (Hood), Biographical sketch of, port., xi, 176.
- Welch, Leone P., Ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Topsfield, ports., xix, 89.
- Wildes Family of Essex County, xi, 17.
- Witchcraft delusion (1692), Topsfield in the, xiii, 23.
- Witchcraft records, xiii, 39.

